

Hafa Adai!

SCA joins push for United to revive Petsafe transport program. **PAGE 3**
Elptico updates Chamber on NMC's progress. **PAGE 6**

75¢

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'Fully vaccinated travelers can go straight home if...'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
jnauta14@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A fully vaccinated man who arrived on Saipan yesterday was the first traveler to go straight home after passing travel requirements.

Infrastructure and Recovery Program will spur timely delivery of key projects

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By MIKE SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.



The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers supports the creation of the Infrastructure and Recovery Program to capitalize on the over \$1 billion in funds for disaster relief and infrastructure projects. These funds will fast-track our economic recovery, mitigate the economic losses caused by the pandemic, and advance the Marianas' transformation to not only achieve quality, livable



See INFRASTRUCTURE on Page 4

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced that the arriving traveler, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. deputy executive direc-

See FULLY on Page 4

OPPOSING LAWYER AARON HALEGUA SAYS:

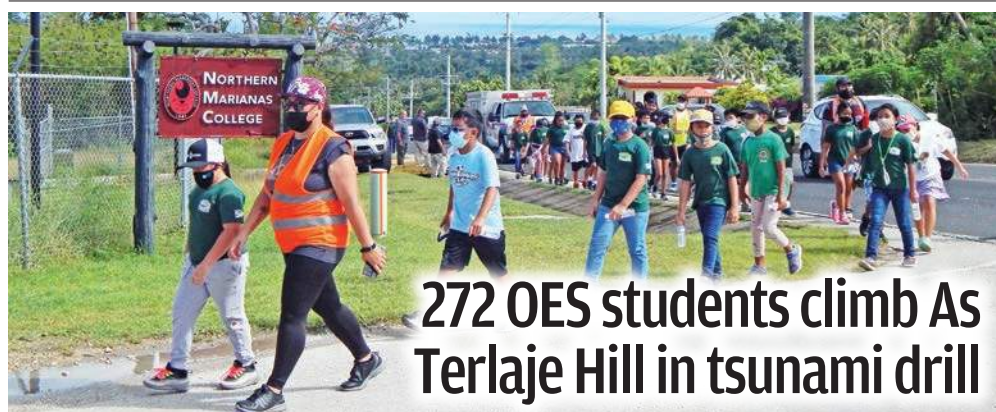
Cui's attempts to place all blame on lawyer 'falls flat'

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The New-York-based lawyer

William Gilmore, fourth from right, is the first traveler to avail of the modified quarantine that allows verified-vaccinated incoming travelers to exit the airport and go straight to their home, or lodging, if they complete their mandatory health declaration form at least 72 hours prior to arrival and after their lodging or home passes assessment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



272 OES students climb As Terlaje Hill in tsunami drill

Oleai Elementary School students and staff members make their way to the Northern Marianas College campus on As Terlaje Hill, which has been designated as a tsunami safe-zone, as part of the school's tsunami drill yesterday morning. A group of 272 people, consisting of OES students and staff, participated in the exercise.

JOSHUA SANTOS

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Oleai Elementary School conducted a "tsunami preparedness exercise" yesterday morning, beginning from the

school at 8:30am and ending at around 9am at the Northern Marianas College. A total of 272 people—a group comprising around half of Oleai's student body and members of

See OES on Page 4

national Holdings, Ltd. and its subcontractors told the court that IPI board chair Cui Li

See CUI on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 5pm, June 3, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **56%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	22,460
Fully Vaccinated:	20,056
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,905
Fully Vaccinated:	3,196
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	303

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,187	6	8,193
Recovered	7,986	5	7,991
Active	57	6	63
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	167,174		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	0	183
Traced via Travel Screening	147	0	147
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	75		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Himawari Restaurant in Garapan welcomes Japanese chef Kazuma Chaen from Kagawa, Osaka.

PAGE 14



NATION

A Dallas high school valedictorian scraps a pre-approved speech to deliver an abortion rights call.

PAGE 15



SCIENCE & TECH

At least a tenth of the world's giant sequoia trees were destroyed by a single wildfire.

PAGE 18



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Local

‘CHCC still short by \$20M’

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Based on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.’s projected expenditures as well as their projected revenues, and what Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has proposed as its budget in fiscal year 2022, CHCC is still short by \$20 million.

With the shortfall and in addition to other infrastructure improvements to fight the pandemic, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña informed the House of Representatives’ Committee on Ways and Means at yesterday’s

hearing for the CHCC budget that they have asked Torres for additional funds that are allowable under ARPA.

Muña said their overall request in ARPA funds is \$114.2 million, while their budget request for fiscal year 2022 is \$24.7 million. She said the \$24.7 million includes Medicaid of about \$12 million.

Muña said on top of hospital improvements and enhanced services, they also asked for the balance owed to CHCC from public laws and appropriation totaling \$12,482,329. Joining Muña at the com-

mittee hearing were CHCC financial officer Perlle Santos and CHCC chief operations officer Subroto Banerji. Other CHCC officials were also present.

Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said that, from what they are hearing from all these government agencies, they have been meeting with the administration to request additional funds through the ARPA.

“So until we see what the governor has submitted, we won’t know how. We’ll have to wait and see how we can address their concerns, especially with CHCC,” he said.

Manglona said the Legislature may be receiving the governor’s revised proposed fiscal year 2022 budget by July 1.

Manglona said they’re basically hearing out most of the agencies’ concerns and will be done with all budget hearings by end of the month.

“And so come first week of July, members will meet to discuss all the concerns that were brought up by all agencies,” Manglona said.

In her testimony, Muña said they requested for fund-

See CHCC on Page 4

» **With shortfall, CHCC asks additional funds allowable under ARPA**

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SCA joins push for United to revive Petsafe transport program

The Saipan Cares for Animals has joined other animal rescue organizations in the CNMI and Guam in making a push for United Airlines to reopen its Petsafe Pet Transport & Shipping program, which allows the air carrier to transport pets between the Marianas and the U.S. mainland.

In a post on SCA's Facebook page on Wednesday, it explained why reopening the program is crucial to the CNMI and Guam, detailing the unique and dire struggles of pet owners who make plans to move away and find themselves unable to bring their pets with them.

In normal times, United Airlines' Petsafe Pet Transport & Shipping program was the most feasible way of ensuring that the pet stays with the family. The airline charged a flat rate that was based on the combined weight of your pet's crate and the pet itself, coordinated a drop-off between pet owners and United Cargo and, once the

pets were accepted, handled the moving process completely. In total, a family would have expected a bill of around \$700 from United Airlines.

However, with Saipan currently no longer having a licensed veterinarian, the transport program having been suspended since last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and United Airlines now being Saipan's sole and primary flight provider, moving away and ensuring that a family's "fur baby" can travel too is extremely costly and impossible for some.

"The Boonie Flight Project brought [the pet transport issue] to the forefront of our minds," said SCA assistant director Brooks Travis.

Currently, the Boonie Baby Foundation, which is based in Guam, ships batches of stray puppies it finds around the island to interested adopters living in the United States. The organization works closely with Animal

Travel Agent LLC and Tails of Hawaii to work out the logistics of sending animals from Guam to the U.S. mainland.

The Boonie Flight Project remains feasible because it was found that shipping puppies in batches of two per crate was cheaper than shipping a fully-grown animal. Depending on size and weight, it could cost anywhere between \$2,000 to \$4,000

to ship a fully-grown animal from Guam to the United States.

The \$2,000 to \$4,000 price tag, however, is the only option right now for pet owners on Saipan that are moving away. And, since Saipan has no licensed veterinarian, ordering a charter flight from Saipan to Guam for the pet is the only way for these families to obtain the necessary medical records

and certifications for their pets.

For families in this situation, all that Travis can recommend is to "start saving." In SCA's Facebook post, it said the clinic "receives calls almost every week asking us to accept pets because their family is moving away."

Travis hopes that United Airlines can reopen Petsafe for the CNMI and Guam, and believes that "people in Unit-

ed will see the importance of reducing strays and keeping families together."

Saipan Tribune reached out to United Airlines' local public relations team in Guam, and was told as of press time Thursday the PR team in Guam was working on getting a statement from United Airlines' headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. (Joshua Santos)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of 1981 reunion Mass set

This is to inform all Marianas High School 1981 graduates there will be a 40th Reunion Eucharistic Mass on June 17, 2021, at 6pm at St. Jude Church in as Lito. The 40th reunion dinner will take place on June 19, at the Chalan Kanoa Beach Club behind Bank of Guam Chalan Piao Branch from 5:30pm to 10pm. (PR)

Power service interruption today on Capital Hill

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption today, June 4, from 9am to 1pm affecting Capital Hill. Specifically, the power outage will affect Guguan Dr.,

Tano Ct., Pajaron Lp., Managaha Pl., partial of Chalan Savana, Marianas Ln., Kantit Ln., and Sariguan Dr. No water wells nor wastewater facilities will be affected.

CUC's linemen will replace a rotted primary power pole and lift sagging primary power lines along Guguan Dr. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

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CUC OKs release of \$2.8M to replace a power engine

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors has approved the CUC management's request to release \$2.8 million from CUC's restricted funds to replace a power engine at its power plant on Saipan.

CUC acting executive director Betty Terlaje also disclosed Friday that management just shared information about a plan to extend

CUC's temporary power supply agreement with Aggreko for 18 weeks, and that the board did not act on it during the previous special board meeting.

FULLY

From Page 1

tor William Gilmore, is the first traveler to avail of the service, after being tested at the airport by CHCC, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Service, and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

According to a CHCC statement, effective yesterday, June 3, 2021, verified-vaccinated incoming travelers can exit the airport to go straight to their home or lodging if they complete their mandatory health declaration form at least 72 hours prior to arrival and after their lodging or home passes assessment.

CHCC said fully vaccinated travelers must include their vaccination documentation in their mandatory health declaration form to ensure that their COVID-19 vaccination is verified in a timely manner and that their

lodging or home passes assessment before they land.

As for those who were vaccinated in the CNMI, CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team will look up CHCC vaccination records to verify that the individual is fully vaccinated. If the person has been vaccinated elsewhere, CHCC says the traveler should provide the name of the immunization record provider, traveler's name, traveler's date of birth, type of vaccine administered, vaccine name, vaccine lot number, and vaccine administration date.

According to CHCC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccination record cards are not considered vaccination records accepted for travel into the CNMI.

If travelers are coming from a Level 1 jurisdiction on CDC's travel recommendation list, they do not have to test upon arrival, but will undergo

a lodging or home assessment and will be tested on the fifth day after arrival. If a Level 1 traveler fails their lodging or home assessment, they are encouraged to monitor themselves for symptoms. Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should call the CHCC Tele-Triage Hotline available 24 hours a day at (670) 233-2067.

However, if they are coming from a Level 2 or higher jurisdiction, they will be tested at the airport after submitting their mandatory health declaration form at least 72 hours prior to their arrival. This will ensure that the individuals COVID-19 vaccination is verified and that their home or lodging passes assessment before they land. They will also be tested on the fifth day after arrival.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

INFRASTRUCTURE

From Page 1

communities, but also a world-class destination.

The program that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios have created would work on accelerating the processes in getting critical projects off the ground and completed. Under existing procurement and permitting procedures, it can take 28 months for a project to get approval to start construction if there are no legal disputes raised along the way. Much of the delays over the past decades can be attributed to disjointed processes within and among the agencies and to conflicting and duplicative procedures. We need a centralized office to focus on these specific projects, coordinate agency work, and resolve conflicting processes. The projects funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery, Office of Insular Affairs, Economic Development Administration grants, and the American Rescue Plan Act must start in a couple of years.

The IRP will employ technical experts—engineers, master and en-

vironmental planners, biologists, and an archeologist. Former Department of Public Lands secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo was named as the IRP coordinator and she will be supported by three directors who will oversee procurement, permitting, and construction management and engineering. A legal team will ensure that the IRP will expedite contracts without compromising fair procurement processes and protection of our natural resources.

With the IRP taking the lead in the pressing projects, personnel of other government agencies will get the support they need to move forward with critical tasks, while still providing their regular services to the public.

Once the disaster recovery and infrastructure projects are off the ground, they will create jobs for residents and stimulate millions of dollars into our economy. It couldn't come at a more critical time. As an added benefit, the IRP will also expedite construction and funding for better homes, quality and safer roads, renewed schools, and community and health facilities.

Several states and territories have similar centralized coordination offices for infrastructure and disaster recovery. The North Carolina Office of Recov-

ery and Resiliency to date has invested more than \$3.6 billion to support recovery from four major hurricanes. Meanwhile, in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Office of Disaster Recovery serves as the center of coordination for approximately \$8 billion in federal funding to support recovery efforts from hurricanes Irma and Maria.

In all of the states and territories where programs similar to the IRP exist, the common ground is centered on the need for coordination, full compliance of regulations, reporting requirements, permitting processes, and meeting project timelines. If these are indicators of successful outcomes in infrastructure and recovery, then the CNMI is on to something good here.

When Typhoon Soudelor hit us in 2015 and left the islands in shambles, we struggled to recover. When we were getting back on track in 2018, Super Typhoon Yutu struck us even harder. As if the back-to-back disasters weren't enough, the COVID-19 pandemic came and halted our tourism economy. However, we remain resilient and continue to work together to find a way to rise through these challenges. Now, we have the opportunity and resources to rebuild The Marianas for the future. It's time to seize the moment and create a better quality of life for all.

erty & Emergency Management, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, NMC, and the Public School System for helping make the drill finally come to fruition.

Parico also shared that the school's student body is currently divided into an "A" and a "B" section. Section "B" took part in yesterday's tsunami drill, while section "A" participated in a fire drill and a lockdown drill earlier this month. According to the CNMI PSS website, OES currently serves around 458 students.

According to PSS emergency manager Jack Diaz, he was impressed with OES' performance. He

along with a team of observers evaluated the entire evacuation process, and will meet with Homeland Security, DFEMS, and DPS for a debrief next Monday.

"Thirty minutes is pretty good for walking up [As Terlaje Hill], these are little kids. This is the first time we've ever done this, we've been planning it for maybe six-seven years. ...With the help of Homeland Security, DPS, and DFEMS, we finally got to do this", said Diaz.

As a reward for cooperating and walking up As Terlaje Hill, all of the students were treated to ice keki. The students were bused back to the school after the drill.

Terlaje said the \$2.8 million is now released, and the replacement for 1.5-megawatt engine is now being negotiated. "We only approved to unrestrict the fund so CUC can now have some power to negotiate an engine replacement, but there is no purchase yet," she said.

With respect to Aggreko, Terlaje said there was no discussion on funding the planned extension of Aggreko's contract.

CUC board chair Miranda V. Manglona stated in an interview Friday that they are still working on the Aggreko matter. "So if there is any

other issues that we have to discuss, then we'll meet again as a board, together with the management," Manglona said.

In his presentation before the CUC board last May 12, CUC power plant manager Richard Cano spoke of the need to extend CUC's power supply agreement with Aggreko for 18 weeks at a cost of \$1.6 million.

Cano also held the presentation to justify the CUC management's request for the board to release a total of \$2.8 million from CUC's unrestricted funds to "assist this critical situation." (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

CUI

From Page 1

Jie's attempts to place all blame for her noncompliance on her lawyer, Juan T. Lizama, "falls flat" due to Cui's and her translator's own "pattern of obstructionist and disobedient behavior."

This argument is contained in the second status report that lawyer Aaron Halegua submitted yesterday to the U.S. District Court, where he outlined Cui's failure to obey the court's preservation order for the NMI.

Cui has been at the center of legal complications in the past for being unable to preserve and surrender her cell phone to the court.

In response to Cui's June 1 request for time to find "a responsible and competent" lawyer, Halegua reminded Cui and the court that Lizama was an attorney that she voluntarily chose to represent her, and said that Cui will have a full opportunity to explain how Lizama is mostly to blame whenever her and Chi submit their opposition to the court preservation order. Halegua, however, says that such arguments rarely prevail.

Further, Halegua took issue with the portion of Cui's request where she asked the court to understand her situation, as she does not speak English or "know the American legal system well." Halegua states that the court has taken great care to properly explain the legal proceedings

to Cui through her chosen translator, Howyo Chi, and says that "the plain reality is that Ms. Cui has obstructed plaintiffs from obtaining discovery at every turn."

In the June 2 status report, Halegua provided five past incidents where Cui has been uncooperative with the court that do not have any connection to Lizama. According to Halegua, Cui in the past has:

- Evaded service of and failed to respond to a subpoena, and "when she did appear provided evasive and untruthful testimony."

- Allegedly deleted WeChat data from her phone with help of associates in reaction to Halegua's March 4 request for her to preserve her phone data.

- Had translator Chi file a declaration that Cui's phone data had been preserved and copied, despite Cui's WeChat data returning a report of "analysis is empty" and the copying process only taking four minutes.

- Remained in possession of her cell phone and claimed to have lost the SIM card she has been using since arriving in Saipan, and

- Continued to use her cell phone even after the court issued a preservation order for her cell phone on March 31.

"This pattern of noncompliance cannot all fall solely on the shoulders of Mr. Lizama," said Halegua, who is the lawyer for the plaintiffs in the case *Tianming Wang, et. al vs. Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC, et. al.*

CHCC

From Page 2

ing to address some identified gaps in funding for more accessible care for the people. "We can do more by addressing the gaps from care and investments we've already made for improvements," Muña said.

She said that last March, the CHCC, with the board of trustees' approval, submitted the fiscal year 2022 budget as it relates to the health of all CNMI residents.

Unfortunately, even with all of the CHCC's involvement and in working with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force in preventing the COVID-19 infection from spreading wildly within the CNMI, the funding appropriated to CHCC in fiscal year 2021 stunted them, Muña said.

"If we can put a value on what we do, the pandemic would and should have been one major indicator of how important our work is and how important health is to the CNMI population," she said.

Muña said it was the federal agencies that eventually provided the support to CHCC for contact tracing, testing, and vaccinations.

She emphasized that these funds are dedicated to allowable costs and that CHCC still needs revenues produced by hospital services. The CEO said hospital services require hospital staff and that contact tracing, testing, and vaccinations require the same people that are providing hospital services.

"The juggling of personnel is a daily chore for all of us," she pointed out.

Muna said the grants that are open for the CHCC to apply for are focused on the pandemic. "We have yet to see a notice of funding opportunity that focused on hospital and clinic services," the CEO said.

Muña said they have medical and nursing staff that are committed to doing more for this community they came to love. "We continuously seek to bring much-needed specialty care to our people. We can do more. We want to do more. Let us do more together!" she said.

OES

From Page 1

OES staff—walked from the school campus and up As Terlaje Hill to make it to a designated tsunami safe-zone at NMC.

OES principal Jasylene Parico was impressed by how the drill went, and thanked many of the drill's participating agencies. "We went beyond our expectations, I think our students and our staff followed the procedures that we made changes to [and] decided upon," said Parico.

Parico thanked the students and their parents, the Office of Homeland Secu-

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Eliptico updates Chamber on NMC's progress

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Northern Marianas College interim president Frankie Eliptico updated business leaders on the college's recent activities, programs and building construction plans during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom. All these developments coincide with the college's celebration of its 40th anniversary this year.

"The last presentation I did

at the Chamber of Commerce was about a year ago and we just celebrated the commencement of our students but did not have a commencement exercise due to the pandemic. ... Last week, we gave away 245 certificates and degrees...[for] a combination of class[es] 2020 and 2021. ... We held an in-person graduation ceremony and since we recognize social distancing procedures... we rented out three venues—Hyatt, Saipan World Resort, and Crowne Plaza—and have their family and friends join them online," he said.

"... We had over 200 graduates, and I'd like to stress their achievements because they are in our community, they are employed by your organizations and they are helping to power our economy. I want to rid of this mentality that many of our students are just going to school—many of our students are juggling a full-time job, a family, taking care of their elderly, and many other obligations. We do have many non-traditional students and they deserve the recognition," he added.

According to Eliptico,

NMC has seen its number of degrees and certificates climb over the years. "In fact, if you look at the numbers from 2010, it has more than doubled. I wanted to show that just because we see more and more students looking to NMC for their personal and professional growth," he said.

"We will be highlighting partnerships with various organizations like the Chamber, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, the CNMI Department of Labor, with non-profit organizations who are in this room and other agen-

cies to help make sure that we are meeting local workforce needs. We also want to help you or ask you to help keep part of our students' success by recruiting them, hiring them, offering internship opportunities, mentoring them, and participating in NMC events and activities, like our career fair," he added.

NMC is one of the establishments that opened their facilities as COVID-19 inoculation sites to help the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force bring vaccinations closer to villages and residents. To date, they have vaccinated 150 individuals.

As for its rebuilding plans, Eliptico said that things are moving along smoothly.

"Everybody has seen the traumatic photos of losing 85% of our campus due to Super Typhoon Yutu. ... Imagine popping into your campus of 30-some years and 85% is gone—classrooms, labs, cafeteria, the student center, faculty offices, everything gone. ... We are completing within the next few weeks our facilities master plan and that will include our flagship building, as well as other buildings that

will house our academic and non-academic programs, including student services, and many other facilities that we lost in the typhoon," he said.

"We are looking at broader terms as well like what should our neighborhood look like, so we've engaged with folks from the Department of Public Works and other agencies, the Governor's Office and Lt. Governor's office, and other organizations to be able to plan how make the major road of Dandan (from NMC to Shell Gas Station in Dandan) walkable, a lot of different shops, small cafes or small boutiques. ... We are looking at putting trees in the middle of the road so traffic can slow down, putting sidewalks because there are no sidewalks right now in this area...[and] turn this area into commercial hub," he added.

Eliptico hopes that when all the construction plans are realized, the community will be looking at NMC as technologically advanced, resilient to typhoons, culturally, aesthetic and, most of all, something that the community can be proud of.

USCIS launches pilot for credit card payments when filing Form I-485

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced yesterday a pilot program for accepting credit card payments using Form G-1450, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions, for U nonimmigrants filing Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status.

The pilot program began on May 3 at the Nebraska Service Center and will be limited to

this location. The service center started accepting credit card payments from certain Form I-485 applicants using Form G-1450. Applicants must be U nonimmigrants (victims of criminal activity). At the end of the pilot, USCIS will evaluate the results and determine the next steps for possibly expanding this payment option for other forms or other service centers. (*USCIS*)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
PHONE: (670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIIMPORTS.COM



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT CPA-RA-003-17

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Drainage Improvements, CPA-RA-003-17.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at the CPA Administration Office or emailed to wprater@cnmiports.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., local time, Friday, June 11, 2021.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. (CHST), FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 5/20/21



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
PHONE: (670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIIMPORTS.COM



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING LOT EXPANSION CPA-TA-001-20

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Tinian International Airport Parking Lot Expansion, CPA-TA-001-20.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at the CPA Administration Office or emailed to wprater@cnmiports.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., local time, Friday, June 11, 2021.


The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. (CHST), FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.


The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 5/20/21



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting** on Monday, **June 7, 2021** at **10:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- Preliminary Matters
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
 - Adoption of Agenda
- CUC- PSS Net Metering Policy Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA")
- Public Comments*
- Executive Session**
(Consultation with Legal Counsel)
- Adjournment

_____/s/_____
MIRANDA V. MANGLONA, CHAIRPERSON
CUC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**



INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW/HSEM21-RFP-025
SUBMISSION DATE: June 30, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Design/Build for CNMI All Hazard Warning System, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR, OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **June 15, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Homeland Security and Management Agency**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **June 22, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director** Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.


/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ GERALD DELON GUERRERO
Special Assistant-HSEM



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP21-CHCC/FACILITY-002**

DESIGN/BUILD SERVICE FOR THE 3-LEVEL PARKING GARAGE

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is soliciting sealed proposals from prospective firms to provide Professional Services for Architectural and Construction of CHCC's 3-Level Parking Garage Project.

This procurement is in accordance with the CHCC procurement Regulations. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with CHCC §140-80.1-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals of the CHCC Procurement Regulations).

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Work is available on June 4th, 2021, online at www.chcc.gov.mp, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this **RFP21-CHCC/FACILITY-002**.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at cora.ada@chcc.health no later than June 25th, 2021.

Selection Criteria:
Technical criteria

- 25% Experience and Qualifications in similar or related projects
- 25% Technical approach to meet deliverables and meet timelines of the project. Must be financially stable and must have adequate equipment and tools.
- 25% Project Approach - demonstrate understanding and ability to meet requirements
- 25% Cost Proposal

The successful proposer will be subjected to a responsibility determination in accordance with CHCC Procurement Regulations §140-80.1-245.

Please email your proposal to Ms. Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at cora.ada@chcc.health or submit five (5) hard copies including original copy, **no later than 10:00 AM Chamorro Standard Time (CHST) on July 5th, 2021** at the CHCC Main Campus Office. Proposals received after the date and time will not be accepted

Please note submission instructions:

- All submissions must include the **RFP21-CHCC/FACILITY-02** and Project Title in the email subject.
- All documents must be submitted in Adobe PDF Format.
- All pages of your proposal must include the RFP # and Project Title in the header, plus page number in the footer.

Failure to follow the instructions regarding the submission of RFP responses may result in the CHCC's choice to disqualify such proposals.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

June 6 is CNMI Cancer Survivors Day

This coming Sunday, June 6, will mark the 10th annual CNMI Cancer Survivors Day Celebration of Life—the day set aside each year to recognize cancer survivors, raise awareness of the ongoing challenges cancer survivors face because of their disease, and celebrate life.

With nearly 17 million people living with and beyond cancer in the U.S. today—and more than 43 million cancer survivors worldwide—everyone knows someone whose life has been touched by cancer. On Sunday, June 6, 2021, people around the world are coming together to acknowledge these cancer survivors, and to raise awareness of the challenges of cancer survivorship, as part of the 34th annual National Cancer Survivors Day.

Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director Juan L. Babauta defines a “survivor” as anyone living with a history of cancer—from the moment of diagnosis through the remainder of life.

“When people hear the words ‘you have cancer,’ it can be very frightening,” said CCA board vice president Nora Mae S. Fejeran. “But there is hope. Today’s cancer survivors are living longer, better quality lives than ever before. Commonwealth Cancer Survivors Day gives our survivors—and those who support them—a special day each year to celebrate life and to show the world that you can have a good life after a cancer diagnosis.

“CCA is also a call to action. Cancer survivors face



File photo shows participants of a previous CNMI Cancer Survivors Day at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. CCA

ongoing, often long-lasting, hardships because of their disease,” Fejeran added. “On Commonwealth Cancer Survivors Day, we want to raise awareness of the many challenges of cancer survivorship and advocate for further research, more resources, and increased public awareness to improve the lives of cancer survivors.”

CCA is encouraging everyone—cancer survivors, caregivers, healthcare professionals, family members, and friends—to join the celebration.

Due to COVID-19, many of the public events scheduled to celebrate CNMI Cancer Survivors Day have been canceled. However, that doesn’t mean that the celebration is canceled. You can connect with cancer survivors and supporters around the islands on Sunday, June 6, by connecting to the CNMI Cancer Survivors Day site on Facebook (Facebook.com/CancerSurviv-

vorsDay), or website, (www.ccamarianas.org).

CCA offers free guidance, education, networking resources, and assistance to the CHCC Oncology Center, and to support groups, and other cancer-related organizations that host official CNMI Cancer Survivors Day celebrations. The CCA mission is to bring awareness to the issues of cancer survivorship in order to better the quality of life for cancer survivors.

As the number of cancer survivors continues to grow, it is becoming ever more important to address the unique needs of this population. In addition to facing a serious illness, cancer survivors must contend with rapidly rising drug costs, inadequate insurance coverage, difficulty finding or keeping employment, and ongoing physical, psychological, and financial struggles that persist even after treatment ends.

In 2003, the CCA began

as an alliance of volunteers, becoming formally chartered and incorporated in 2008. In 2009 the CCA achieved a tax-exempt status under 501 (c) (3), and since then has provided direct financial assistance, assistance with nutritional supplements and other personal needs, as well as, certain types of medical equipment such as hospital beds, wheelchairs, and oxygen concentrators prescribed by a locally li-

censed physicians to qualifying clients in the CNMI who are receiving treatment for cancer.

CCA also facilitates monthly cancer survivors and caregiver support group meetings, engages in a variety of awareness and outreach activities, and has produced various educational publications such as brochures, fliers, videos, and DVDs for our diverse community. Awareness activities and events related to cervical cancer, oral cancer, colorectal cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and lung and pancreatic cancer awareness, are just a few of the annual calendar of educational and outreach activities carried out by the CCA.

CCA also engages in programs such as early screening and detection, and patient navigation.

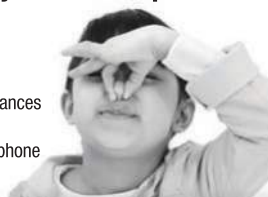
CCA has formed critical partnerships with all seven of the CNMI’s dental clinics, in order to enable free oral cancer screenings for all ages.

For more information, contact CCA at telephone 682-0050 or via email at ccamarianas@gmail.com, or visit our website at www.ccamarianas.org. (PR)

The most common identification of a leak is SMELL. If you smell gas, there is a possibility of a fire or explosion.

If the odor is STRONG:

1. Shut off gas if possible
2. DO NOT light matches or cigarettes
3. DO NOT operate switches or electrical appliances
4. Get everyone out of the building
5. Call the Fire Department from a neighbor's phone
6. Call Wushin LPGas Emergency Number



WUSHIN

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322-7415/322-8733

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PHOEBE GRACE K. REIONG
Petitioner,
vs
WENCESLAU A. REIONG
Respondent,

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
NO. 20-0336
SUMMONS
FOR PUBLICATION

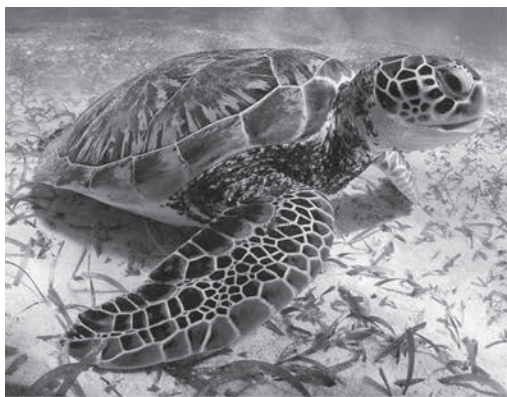
TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505694 CK Saipan as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2020.

/s/ Clerk of Court



GREEN SEA TURTLE (TOP PHOTO); HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLE (BOTTOM)

THE CNMI IS HOME TO THE ENDANGERED GREEN AND HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLE!

Sea turtles are a fundamental link in marine ecosystems. They help maintain the health of seagrass beds and coral reefs that benefit valuable species such as reef fish and other marine life that humans depend on for food. In the Marianas, sea turtles have also held a major cultural significance and tourism value.

Help protect sea turtles in the CNMI, call the Sea Turtle Stranding Hotline! Anonymous reports welcomed on injured, trapped, or dead turtles, turtle tracks or nests, illegal jewelry or meat, information concerning a poached turtle, and suspicious poaching activities.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: CNMI
SEA TURTLE PROGRAM



**DLNR-CNMI SEA TURTLE
STRANDING HOTLINE**

670-287-8537

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

Never satisfied until you are

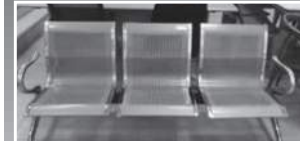
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Kingfisher Corporation

THE POSITION: General and Operations Manager

JOB DESCRIPTION: Represent the company in all aspects during annual meetings held at the head office in Tokyo, Japan; Prepare monthly result of operations for submission to the head office; Prepare various reports as required by the head office pertaining to daily operation; Acts as authorized bank signatory; Review all bank transactions, deposits, disbursements, fund transfer; Oversee annual external audits being done; In-charge of hiring staff and working on documents applications' review and approval; In-charge of the overall operation of the golf course and restaurant; In-charge of sales promotion and expansion; Supervise accountant and other staff; Review and approve all reports to the Federal and CNMI Governments, tax deposits, tax returns, and land leases; See to it that all government regulations as to permits & licenses are met; Supervise the overall maintenance of the golf course; Travel to Tokyo, Japan twice a year to attend the annual meeting and to discuss results of operation and company status with the company's higher management.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must be a College Graduate with a BA Degree.

EXPERIENCE: With at least 48 months of relevant work experience in managing golf course, restaurant, and pro-shop at the same time.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Japanese language skills in reading, writing and speaking is preferred; Knowledgeable in preparing operation, financial, and other reports required by the head office in Tokyo in Japanese language; Well-versed with MS Office software and Peachtree payroll software; Must have the ability to represent the company in annual meetings held at the head office in Tokyo, Japan; Well-versed with government reporting both for the CNMI and Federal Governments; Well-versed on golf course maintenance and with fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides & insecticides importation and application.

Job Site: Talafofo Road, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail resume and/or application letter to:

JOSEFINA R. CUNANAN

KINGFISHER CORPORATION

Office Address: Talafofo Road, Capitol Hill,
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5232 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: josie.kingfisher@gmail.com

Telephone Numbers: Tel. (670) 989-8049



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-21-019

Island Wide Water Meter Installation

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; replacement of water meters, relocation of a water meter and meter vault, reconfiguration of water meter service laterals, expansion of a water meter vault, installation of gate valves, replacement of vault covers, installation of ladder rungs, driveway and sidewalk restoration, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system and service to the customers affected. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 120 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-21-019, Island Wide Water Meter Installation”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A *Payment Bond* of one Hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 1, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address alley.reyes@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Torres urges parents to avail of P-EBT program

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres is urging parents and guardians to avail of the federal pandemic food stamp program—called Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer, or P-EBT—which will provide the Marianas an estimated \$11.1 million that will benefit approximately 11,650 children in the CNMI.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Torres urged parents and guardians to submit the P-EBT applications to the Public School System's Child Nutrition Program and the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' Nutrition Assistance Program.

“This is putting...funds and resources back to our community, especially our kids,” he said.

Anytime that there is specific funding for children, parents need to maximize that,

whether its at PSS or public health programs, he said.

A check at PSS CNP office on Capitol Hill yesterday morning showed no line at all for P-EBT applicants.

Torres also said the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. can now vaccinate 12 years old and older so parents need to take advantage of that as well.

“Bring in our young kids. I will be registering my kids today,” he said.

Starting last Tuesday, June 1, until this Monday, June 7, the applications for the P-EBT would have to be submitted to PSS' CNP offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. NAP will resume accepting P-EBT applications this Tuesday, June 8, to next Friday, June 11.

NAP reminded P-EBT applicants that the last day to submit a completed P-EBT application will be next Fri-

day, June 11, no later than 4:30pm at the PSS's CNP offices, or no later than 5pm at the NAP office.

Torres also congratulated Tinian for having 100% of their Executive Branch employees fully vaccinated in compliance with his directive last Feb. 19 to all Executive Branch departments and activity heads. There are roughly 300 employees under Tinian's Executive Branch—all of whom have completed their COVID-19 vaccinations, excluding employees who have sought medical or religious exemptions.

“Those are the goals that you can't get any better than that. So I want to give my hats off to the people of Tinian and the mayor, delegation leaders, and everyone that has contributed one way or another, especially those that have been vaccinated,” Torres said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055

Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962

Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF BUILDING RENOVATION - REPACKAGED, TINIAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP No. 3-69-0011-28/30.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “TNI ARFF BUILDING RENOVATIONS - REPACKAGED, Tinian International Airport, Tinian, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0011-28/30”, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., Friday, JUNE 25, 2021**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport. Sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read at the Saipan Airport Conference Room immediately after the deadline on the same day.

The project, in general, consist of the TNI ARFF Building renovation and extension, and construction of new building. It includes demolition of existing ARFF Dispatch and first bay of the aforesaid building. A three-story building will be constructed as this site, and the remaining building will receive extension of frontage at Bay 2 and Bay 3. A new auxiliary building will be constructed adjacent to the building. Also, this project includes replacement of existing chain-link fence, additional parking and other associated works, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the “Commonwealth Ports Authority”.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Tinian Ports Manager's Office at the Tinian International Airport at **11:00 AM, Friday, June 11, 2021**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. This pre-bid is not mandatory and minutes of the pre-bid will be distributed to all parties who have picked up the DVD containing the plans and specifications.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications. It is the contractor's responsibility to inform CPA as soon as possible if there is a problem accessing the information on the DVD. Contractors are to verify all information provided using the table of contents for the specifications and the plan that shows the index of drawings.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Four Hundred Thirty (430) Calendar Days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-entry of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 21, 2021



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan | TEL. NO. 664-8300 | FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of June 4, 2021

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Yumiko N. Brundidge dba Naka's Diving Services	05/06/2021 SLR-2018-143-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/27/2021	22. Kwon & Byun Corporation dba Saipan Atty Dive	05/27/2021 SLR-2018-X-122-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
2. John DLG Sablan	05/11/2021 SPIm-2021-029	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved 05/27/2021	23. Shim Corporation dba Pro Divers Saipan	05/27/2021 STLR-2018-X-100-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Sites on Instruction	All Designated Dive Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
3. Saipan Marine Dive Co., Ltd.	05/13/2021 SLR-2018-X-073-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Site on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/27/2021	24. Deep Blue, Inc. dba Deep Blue Diving	05/27/2021 STLR-2018-X-098-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
4. Aqua Connection, Inc.	05/13/2021 STLR-2018-X-067-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Site on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/27/2021	25. Saipan A-Venture, LLC dba Saipan Adventure	05/27/2021 SLR-2018-X-099-R4	Snorkeling Tour Operation	Grotto, Laulau Bay & Forbidden Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
5. Wondersea Saipan, Inc.	05/17/2021 STLR-2021-X-103-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/27/2021	26. Hana Tour Service, Inc. dba Saipan Hana Tour	05/27/2021 SLR-2018-X-134-R4	Snorkeling Tour Operation	Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
6. Advance Marine Corp.	05/17/2021 SLR-2018-X-097-R4	Parasailing	Saipan & Mañagaha	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/27/2021	27. Korea Tourism Inc. dba Koreana Tourism Bureau	05/27/2021 SLR-2018-X-138-R4	Snorkeling Tour Operation	Saipan-Mañagaha Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
7. Vertical Aviation, LLC	05/17/2021 SPI-2020-X-043-A1	Extension of Warehouse	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved 05/25/2021	28. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boyz II Marine	05/27/2021 SLR-2018-X-121-R4	Banana Boat, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddle Board, & Kayaking	Kanoa Resort Beach Area, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
8. Pheonix Enterprises Inc. dba Pheonix Marine Sports	05/21/2021 SLR-2018-X-144-R4	Hobie Cat Sailing & Snorkeling Tour Operation	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	29. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boyz II Marine	05/27/2021 SLR-2018-X-120-R4	Banana Boat, Stand Up Paddle Board, Kayaking, & Snorkeling	Fiesta Resort Beach Area & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
9. Interpacific Resorts (Saipan) Corporation dba Pacific Islands Club	05/21/2021 SLR-2018-X-106-R3	Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Board, Snorkeling, Windsurfing, & Sailing	Lagoon Areas Fronting Pacific Island Club, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	30. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boyz II Marine	05/27/2021 SLR-2018-X-080-R4	Parasailing Operation	Designated Parasailing Zone, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
10. Le Grand Bleu, Inc.	05/24/2021 STLR-2018-X-174-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction & Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	31. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boyz II Marine	05/27/2021 SLR-2018-X-081-R4	Personal Watercraft (PWC), Helmet Diving, & Jetboard	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
11. Mark Arnold L. Santos dba Mac's Marine	05/25/2021 SLR-2018-X-112-R4	Banana Boat, Parasailing, Sea Walker & Lagoon Tour	Saipan Lagoon & Managaha Island	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	32. Akhil Chandra Mollick dba Ichiban Marine Sports	05/27/2021 SLR-2018-X-079-R4	Banana Boat, Wakeboarding, Kayaking, & Snorkeling	Saipan & Mañagaha Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
12. Selfish Saipan, Inc.	05/25/2021 SLR-2019-X-038-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	Laulau Bay, Obyan Beach, & Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	33. Deep Blue Sea Corporation	05/28/2021 STLR-2018-X-089-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
13. Windsurfing Saipan, Inc.	05/25/2021 SLR-2018-X-118-R4	Windsurfing, Stand Up Paddleboard, Kayaking, & Snorkeling	Hyatt Regency, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	34. Sydney J. Takahashy dba Fishguyz Scuba & Charter	05/28/2021 SLR-2018-X-141-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
14. Island Marine Sports, Inc.	05/26/2021 SLR-2018-X-110-R4	Parasailing Operation	Designated Parasailing Zone, Saipan & Mañagaha Island	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	35. Dive Marianas Corporation dba Dive Saipan	05/28/2021 SLR-2018-X-088-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ on Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
15. Asia Pacific, Inc. dba Asia Asia Marine Sports	05/26/2021 SLR-2018-X-111-R4	Banana Boat & Snorkeling Tour Operation	Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	36. Hi-Five Co., LTD.	05/28/2021 SLR-2018-X-115-R4	Snorkeling Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Mañagaha	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
16. Big Eye, LLC	05/26/2021 STLR-2021-034	SCUBA Diving Tour Instruction/ Operation	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*	37. Diving Shop Light House Inc.	05/28/2021 SLR-2018-X-169-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
17. BSEA Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	05/26/2021 SLR-2018-X-076-R4	Banana Boat & Snorkeling Tour Operation	Saipan & Mañagaha Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	38. Micronesia Resort, Inc. dba Kensington Hotel Saipan	05/28/2021 SLR-2018-X-185-R4	Sailing, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddle Board & Kayaking	Lagoon Area Fronting Kensington Hotel, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
18. BSEA Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	05/26/2021 SLR-2018-X-077-R4	Parasailing Operation	Designated Parasailing Zone, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	39. Time Creation Corporation dba TCC Diving Tour	05/28/2021 SLR-2018-X-070-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
19. Macro Energy, Inc.	05/26/2021 SLR-2018-X-123-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	Grotto, Laulau Bay & Obyan Beach	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	40. Luana Inc. dba Heart of Gold Divers	05/28/2021 SLR-2018-X-070-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	Grotto, Obyan Beach, Wing Beach, & Laulau Bay Area, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
20. Marianas Trekking LLC	05/26/2021 SLR-2018-X-101-R4	Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Board, Snorkeling, & Canoeing	Saipan & Mañagaha Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	41. Zen Corporation dba Aqua Marine Sports & Production Company	06/01/2021 SLR-2018-X-065-R4	Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Board, Snorkeling, Sailing, Wind Surfing, & Hobie Cat	Achugao-San Roque Beach Areas & Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
21. JB Corporation dba Saipan Fresh Adventure	05/27/2021 SLR-2020-X-054-R2	Snorkeling Tour Operation	Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review	42. Saipan International Dive Center	06/01/2021 SLR-2018-X-086-R4	SCUBA Diving Tour Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review

NMIA §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Government shouldn't be able to require vaccine passports

Herd immunity from the COVID-19 virus is the place we want to be. The quickest and most efficient way of getting there is widespread vaccination.

Across the nation, various mechanisms have been put in place to facilitate vaccination from big vaccine clinics, to messaging aimed at combating hesitancy, to incentives intended to push fence-sitters toward rolling up their sleeves.

As a country, however, we have stopped short of a vaccine mandate. There is no law requiring vaccination against COVID-19.

Such a law in a country that respects citizens' right to set their own health care course would be a concerning shift in direction. It would represent a government intrusion into an area of personal privacy that would, at the very least, result in legal challenge. The inevitable conflict that would be stoked by such a measure would distract, ultimately, from the prize of herd immunity.

Likewise, a vaccine passport—a shorthand way of describing a requirement for proof of vaccination—comes very close to a vaccine mandate if any such “passport” were to be required by government. A passport mandate for admission or participation is akin to a vaccination mandate. As such, government should not enshrine any government mandate for a vaccine passport.

Republicans in Pennsylvania's Senate have begun advancing legislation to prohibit local government units and school districts from requiring a COVID-19 vaccination for access of any sort. The bill has passed the Senate Health and Human Services Committee with six Republicans in favor and four Democrats against. Other states in the nation are pursuing similar legislation.

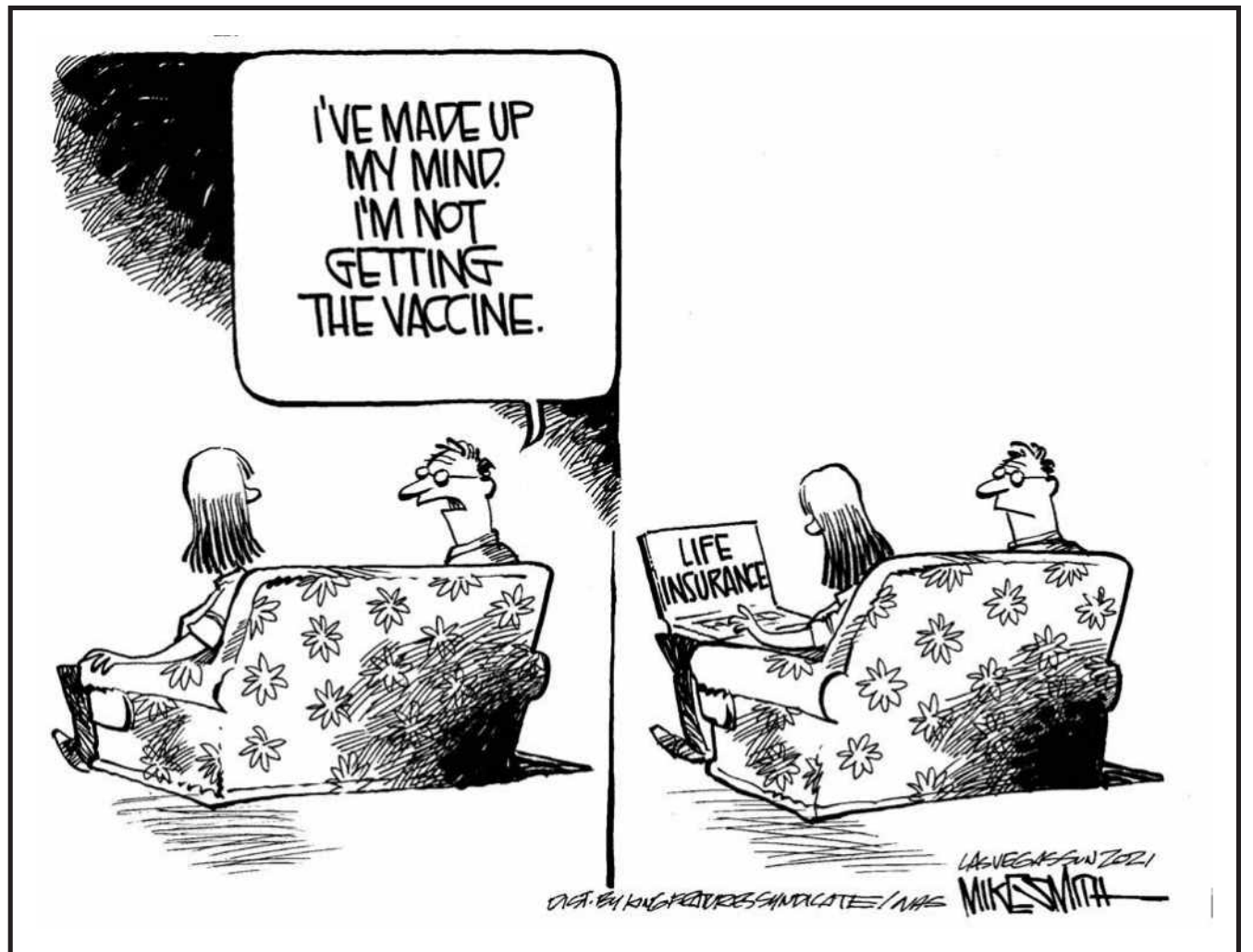
The prohibition on vaccine passports, as crafted in the proposed Pennsylvania legislation, would apply to local government, state agencies, and school districts. They would be precluded from requiring proof of vaccination to enter buildings, use services or engage in activities. The legislation would not apply to private organizations or businesses.

The legislation should become law.

A vaccine passport mandated by any governmental entity is far too close to a de facto vaccine mandate and that constitutes a deep government intrusion into a personal health decision.

It bears repeating that widespread vaccination is the goal. But, citizens must be convinced to take the initiative. They should be persuaded that getting vaccinated is a matter of individual self-interest as well as social conscience. They should be offered incentives. They should be counseled by their doctors and their friends. But, they should not be forced by law or coerced by any measure that is just shy of a legal requirement. Safety is a legitimate concern, especially in the school setting, but testing requirements can be put in place for those who insistently decline to be inoculated against the deadly virus.

See GOVERNMENT on Next Page



COVID showed that we're bad at big decisions

Human behavior during COVID-19 has upended one of the most fundamental assumptions of economics, even if economists haven't yet come around to admitting it. In sum: People are worse at big, important decisions than previously thought, and better at small, trivial ones.

Standard economics theory holds that people make relatively good decisions when there is a lot at stake. At the very least, they reason through the problem carefully, even if they do not always reach the optimal result. Alternatively, when the stakes are low, they process less information and their decision-making may be lackadaisical. People do not agonize over which paper clips to buy.

For some very important spheres of life, however, that distinction doesn't hold—as the pandemic has made all too obvious. Millions of people have refused or delayed vaccinations, even though risk from mRNA vaccines seems to be zero and they save lives. Even many health care workers, who are at higher risk for COVID-19, are deciding not to get vaccinated.

Risk-taking more generally seems to have gone askew. While many of the 600,000 or so Americans who died from COVID-19 were victims of circumstance, others took more risk than they should have, for instance by dining inside when the disease was prevalent in their community.

It is also possible to err in the opposite direction. In San Francisco, it remains common to see people wearing masks as they jog alone in the park. Many people seem unable to snap back and resume the normal lives they had before the pandemic—even though doing so could make them happier. Bryan Caplan, a colleague who studies human rationality, has put the individual COVID-19 response in only the second percentile of “my initially mediocre expectations.” In his view, the lack of rationality could hardly have been worse.

Countries have been irrational too, though again the stakes hardly could be higher, including for political leaders themselves, whether it be Covid risk or re-election incentives.

The failures of the administration of former President Donald Trump, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration are well known. A less politicized example is Taiwan, which early on was heralded (appropriately) for a strong response to the pandemic. But after almost a year and a half of high risk, Taiwan still does not have a good testing regime, nor has it lined up sufficient vaccines. Its response has become bureaucratic and sluggish, unusual for a rational actor capable of responding with great urgency.

You might wonder why we are getting these big, important de-

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog *Marginal Revolution*. His books include *Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero*.



cisions so wrong. I have at least two hypotheses. One is that anxiety causes people to make worse decisions. Facing the danger of a deadly pandemic, for example, the higher stakes might induce me to shift into denial, if only to protect my sanity and peace of mind. I might make worse decisions than if I were simply trying to avoid the common cold, for which the stakes are far lower.

My other hypothesis involves identity and the desire for belonging. It is no accident that red states in the U.S. are under-vaccinated relative to blue states; vaccine skepticism is in part an identity marker for Trump supporters. People tend to see big decisions as more important in shaping their identity than small ones. In essence, the significance of a decision induces all kinds of surrounding social forces to “infect” that decision with partisan influences, and that decision in turn becomes a truly credible signal of what we believe.

For most economic decisions, people do still make better choices when the stakes are higher—but this isn't a universal principle. Are you so sure, for example, that decisions about who to marry are made more rationally than those about which TV show to watch? Maybe they are, but it's not entirely obvious.

An accompanying change is that low-stakes decisions are easier than ever, due largely to the internet, with one crucial caveat: The decision-maker must be relatively rational. Several decades ago, if you wanted to figure out the best paper towels to buy, you might have asked around and then collated a lot of information yourself. These days it is easy enough to search the internet for the answer. Or consider the example of credit card rewards, which are far easier to collect, manipulate and use because of the internet.

The danger of course is that the sum of all these smaller triumphs convinces people that they are rational about big dilemmas too—despite the fact that they choose rather poorly on some of them. We are not used to a world where we are worse at big decisions than the small ones. But it has been hurtling our way for some while now.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

China's 3-child policy won't reverse population decline

If China hopes to avert a fall in its population by raising the maximum number of children per mother from two to three, it's going to have its work cut out.

That's because declining fertility, once started, tends to be an inexorable force that few nations have managed to arrest, let alone reverse. Of the 85 countries where fertility had fallen to less than 2.1 births per woman in 2009—the so-called “replacement level,” below which population decline tends to set in—only Tunisia had managed to just about creep back above replacement 10 years later.

Even that achievement could suggest a measurement problem more than genuine policy success. Women tend to have children later in life as education levels and employment prospects improve. That can sharply depress fertility in the early years of the demographic shift as women wait longer to have children, before leading to a modest rise in the birth rate later as they catch up in their 30s.

GOVERNMENT

From Page 10

In the end, making the choice to be vaccinated is right. But, in this matter and at this time, citizens have a right to be wrong. Any backdoor measure like a required vaccine passport on the part of government is giving too much power to government.

(c) 2021 the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Biden's plan to attack America's racial wealth gap is focused and long overdue

The Black Lives Matter reckoning has mainly focused on the too-high probability that African Americans will be on the receiving end of deadly police force. But other racial inequalities—in health care, education, housing and broader economics—are equally entrenched in this country, demanding powerful correctives by our government. Tuesday, President Joe Biden made a good start.

It is an insult to the American values we purport to hold dear: The net worth of a typical white family is nearly 10 times greater than that of a typical Black family. Nor can that gap be closed merely by equalizing educational opportunity, or expanding homeownership, or helping young people accumulate savings, or helping strengthen family structures, or helping promote entrepreneurship. Control for all those factors, and the chasm remains.

Only an approach that attacks the problem from every angle can begin to build a country where Black and white children have genuinely equivalent chances to excel. So applaud Biden for Tuesday launching, as he marked the centennial of Tulsa's “Black Wall Street” massacre, a first-ever interagency effort to probe inequities in home appraisals and issue new rules to combat housing discrimination. As our friends at Newsday discovered in their groundbreaking “Long Island Divided” series, bias built into real estate, even when subtle, keeps neighborhoods split along color lines.

In Biden's infrastructure plan, \$14 billion in grants would be aimed at combating transportation-related barriers to mobility, which is inextricable from economic mobility. In his jobs package, more than \$30 billion would go toward increasing access to capital for small businesses, with special priority on those owned by people from disadvantaged communities.

And because the federal government is the world's top purchaser of products and services, Biden would use the bully wallet to direct far more federal contracting dollars toward minority-owned businesses.

Some Americans want to turn every mention of “systemic racism” into a new chance to supercharge white grievances. Ignore them. The racial opportunity gap is real. It demands a battle plan.

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Apparent phenomena as diverse as declining fertility in northern Europe and the supposed higher fertility rate of Hispanic women in the U.S. are as likely to be the result of having children later rather than having fewer children. Birth rates in the European Union, for instance, barely changed in a generation once the shift to later maternity was complete:

A three-child policy will certainly help on that front. Given replacement levels of 2.1 births per mother, it's by definition impossible to stabilize your population when you can't have more than two children. Still, there are reasons beyond population policy that China may struggle to spark a baby boom.

Consider what's happening in other countries in the region. Japan and the four Asian “Tiger Economies” of Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan have so strikingly few babies that the term “ultra-low fertility” has been coined to describe them. The four tigers, along with Macau, take out the bottom five places globally in the Central Intelligence Agency's latest ranking of countries by fertility rate, with Japan not far behind:

There's evidence that this isn't just about the delayed maternity that caused Europe's fertility slowdown. The ongoing decline since 2000 in South Korea is being driven instead by women having fewer or no children, according to a 2018 study by Sam Hyun Yoo and Tomas Sobotka of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital.

What can be done to reverse this? Reducing the human and financial cost of rearing children will be vital, as my colleague Clara Ferreira Marques has written. That means not just funding for child care, schooling and parental leave, but a change in attitudes in the workforce, property law and the home so that

Naomi Osaka is a role model

Golf is a game of inches, said Arnold Palmer, one of the sport's greatest players. He added: “The most important are the 6 inches between your ears.”

The same is true of tennis, and indeed almost any sport, not to mention the rest of life. Athletes may spend most of their time cultivating their bodies. But the wise ones know that what matters most is the mind.

That's why I'm cheering and rooting for Naomi Osaka, the 23-year-old tennis prodigy who's just pulled out of the French Open. What she realized was that her mind had become a dark place that she needed to take care of. Many of us should be that honest—and follow her example.

The details of Osaka's withdrawal are more complex, of course. She hated having to “do the press” after matches, as stars are contractually obliged. So she informed the tournament's organizers that she wouldn't. Rather high-handedly, they fined her a packet and threatened to boot her. She decided not to play their game.

The backstory, as she described it in a very personal post on social media, is about mental health, and her struggles with it. Since defeating Serena Williams in the dramatic final of the 2018 U.S. Open, Osaka's been suffering bouts of depression. A self-diagnosed introvert, she also said she feels anxiety in social situations. To block out the negativity, she wears headphones.

But in those post-game pressers, she's exposed to the pack of hounds known as journalists. Almost any polite question you can ask in a sports presser is banal, so some hacks go negative and needle players who may have just had their dreams shattered or are trying to get their confidence back. Why can't you win on clay? What's wrong with your serve? Will you find your groove?

Now put yourself into the mind of the athlete. It's easy to do, even for us amateurs. I also play tennis, and I've spent decades interrogating my mind, besides discussing it with coaches. There's a lot going on in there. And when you're trying to get into your game head, the last thing you want is to hang out in a press conference.

Take, for instance, the following paradox in tennis. The only stroke over which the opponent has no direct influence is the serve. So it should be the easiest. To initiate it, all you have to do is toss the ball above your head.

But a lot of players will tell you that's the hardest part. The reason is that for a split second you're all alone with your mind. When you're returning a stroke, a ball is coming toward you and you have no choice but to focus. When you're tossing it in the air, it's all you. And that's when things go wrong. Doubt creeps in. You hold your breath, one finger tenses, the toss spins the wrong way, the rest is embarrassing.

Incidentally, the worst thing to say to athletes who struggle

By **DAVID FICKLING**

Bloomberg Opinion

David Fickling is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering commodities, as well as industrial and consumer companies. He has been a reporter for Bloomberg News, Dow Jones, the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times and the Guardian.



women don't shoulder all the burden of raising a family.

Measures to address this in China were announced alongside the three-child policy, though it's unclear whether promised or even enacted changes will be enough. Japan has some of the world's most generous paternal leave policies in an attempt to get fathers more involved in child care, but only about 3% of men take any time off at all.

Switching away from an economic model built on a constant cycle of real estate investment might also help. China's major cities, where property is as expensive per square foot as in far richer global cities, aren't particularly attractive places to raise large families.

The good news for China is that, given the right incentives, most people in the world seem to want to have the two or three children needed to balance populations for the long term. The only question is whether the two dozen 60-something men (and one woman) on the Politburo will have the insight needed to change nearly five decades of anti-natalist policy.

By **ANDREAS KLUTH**

Bloomberg Opinion

Andreas Kluth is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. He was previously editor in chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist. He's the author of Hannibal and Me.



with doubt is “think positive.” Sure, there's a long tradition, at least since the “positive psychology” movement that started in the 1990s, of pretending we can overwrite all our mental negativity with deliberate optimism expressed in “affirmations.” Research has shown that this canned positivity works reliably only for people who are already upbeat.

People who are pessimistic, by contrast, can tell themselves how great they are, but part of their minds won't believe it, which makes them even more anxious. Worse, they may end up blaming themselves for their negativity, because they failed to reprogram themselves.

This is also common in Buddhist and Yogic meditation, especially for competitive Westerners. I was once told to sit in Lotus and make my mind still by not thinking. A few seconds in, the thoughts gushed in. I was bad at this, I realized. If I was at the outset only my usual cranky self, I was furious by the time I unwrapped my legs.

The solution—as many Yogis and, increasingly, psychologists agree—is not to try to think positive, but simply to observe the thoughts and label them. The same is true when our backhand keeps going into the net: Simply observe, and keep an open mind. The late psychologist Christopher Peterson called this “realistic optimism.”

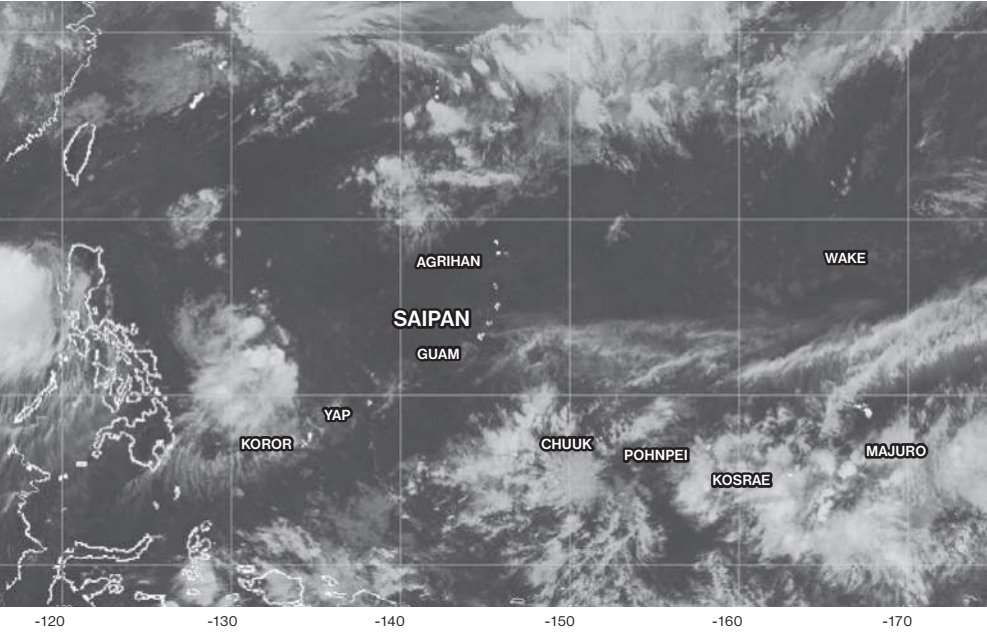
For most athletes, all this can take place on the court and during the game, or in the locker room just before. Osaka, however, had obviously crossed into a darker mental landscape. And in this respect, she's like the huge and growing numbers of young adults who, especially in this pandemic, are much more at risk of depression and anxiety than older people.

What should our message to these youngsters be? Suck it up, go back out on the court and then to the press conference? That's a great way to make things worse. No, far better for them to label their suffering, as Osaka did. We want them to take the time and accept the help they need, before it gets too bad.

The goal, in sports and life, is always the same: a balanced mind. Osaka didn't have that, and realized she wasn't going to get it while being part of this circus. Good for her.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:54 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180. Moderate east trade-winds winds prevail over the Marianas this morning. Satellite imagery only shows a few showers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88 80 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84 77 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87 74 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 81 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85 81 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Tuesday	5:45 AM	6:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:37 AM	1:48 PM	-
Saturday	2:12 AM	2:35 PM	-
Sunday	2:47 AM	3:21 PM	-
Monday	3:22 AM	4:09 PM	-
Tuesday	3:58 AM	4:57 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly sunny	56 45 °F	
Beijing	Rain	86 76 °F	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84 80 °F	
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	84 72 °F	
London	Mostly sunny	64 50 °F	
Los Angeles	Mostly sunny	77 62 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88 78 °F	
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	57 44 °F	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87 79 °F	
New York	Rain	70 59 °F	
Osaka	Partly cloudy	75 59 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	67 52 °F	
Pusan	Partly cloudy	82 59 °F	
Rome	Rain	79 62 °F	
Salem	Sunny	70 47 °F	
San Francisco	Sunny	69 53 °F	
Seoul	Partly cloudy	85 63 °F	
Tokyo	Sunny	74 62 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly cloudy	80 63 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:43 AM	High Tide	1.99	
10:26 AM	Low Tide	0.89	
3:45 PM	High Tide	1.49	
9:35 PM	Low Tide	0.77	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5	
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>									

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Demapan proposes QC reforms to enhance economic dev’t

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) has introduced House Bill 22-70, or the Investment Incentive Act of 2021, which seeks to promote economic development in the Commonwealth and increase competitiveness of the Commonwealth for private sector investment.

“The provision of tax incentives is a common tool for economic development throughout the United States and the world and competition for investments is greatly supplemented by efforts of these jurisdictions to implement economic development plans through the allocation of tax incentives,” he said.

Demapan believes that the

21-year-old Investment Incentive Act of 2000 served the purpose of its time in providing incentives for the development of new investment in the CNMI. He believes, though, that the structure of the program has not kept pace with an evolving competitive market for business investments.

“At this juncture, it’s important to encourage the development of additional business investments and increased economic diversification of the Commonwealth economy by offering investors tax incentives to build, expand, and operate projects,” said Demapan. “As global and regional economic landscapes change and industries evolve, it is an

opportune time for the CNMI to update its portfolio for the challenges of the 21st Century.”

H.B. 22-70 is a product based on recommendations proposed by the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisers.

The GCEA agrees with the need to update the qualifying certificate program to keep current with changing dynamics in the competitive market for American investment and to provide greater resources to the CNMI’s development entity (the Commonwealth Development Authority) to compete with competitors across the nation in an effort to provide a more streamlined and targeted effort to use present tools to encourage economic diversification.

“The changes being proposed will ensure that incentives do not create an uneven playing field among private sector operators,” said Demapan. “For instance, in the event a number of industries develop in the CNMI within a targeted industry, through both incentives and natural investment, the ability to alter eligibility of that industry would ensure fairness in the economy.”

The bill also includes the GCEA’s recommendation to grant CDA the authority to delineate Economic Development Zones throughout the Commonwealth that can better target areas or islands in need of specific development in line with the development priorities of the Commonwealth’s municipalities and communities.

“These reforms to the qualifying certificate program are greatly needed to ensure that our economy thrives for generations to come,” added Demapan. “Further, there will also be opportunities for existing businesses to avail for these incentives for eligible expansion projects, finally leveling the playing field for many of our longstanding locally owned businesses. These businesses have been here for decades, in good times and in bad, so it’s only fair that they be allowed to avail of incentives to further expand their business activities.” (PR)

IN RESPONSE TO BILL STRIPPING CNMI TOP OFFICIALS OF SUBSIDIZED HOUSING

Torres says he wishes he could stay at governor’s official residence

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he wishes he could just stay where the governor’s official residence on Capitol Hill as provided by the CNMI Constitution but pointed out he is unable to do so at present since “there is no government housing.”

Speaking at a radio news briefing on Friday, Torres said security is among the reasons why the constitution provides housing for the governor and lieutenant governor.

Rep. Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan) introduced a bill that will remove taxpayer-funded housing for the governor, lieutenant governor, Senate president, and House speaker.

The bill, which is co-authored by Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and other Democrat representatives, proposes to repeal a law that became effective on Dec. 29, 1980, that provides government housing for the governor, lieutenant governor, Senate president, and House of Representatives speaker.

According to Lizama, historically governors and lieutenant governors of prior administrations have availed of government housing but all

these government facilities are now either derelict, abandoned, or have been converted to government offices.

The lawmaker said in the absence of government housing, the Department of Finance has allowed the use of public funds to pay for utilities at the private residences of these elected officials.

When asked to comment on the legislation, Torres said he’ll be happy to abide whatever is provided by the constitution with respect to housing.

“I’m at my house because there is no government housing,” Torres pointed out.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the official governor’s residence is not conducive and that he’s not sure who was the last governor to stay there.

When asked for information about the governor’s official residence, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) believes that the building was condemned several administrations back. Demapan said he does not know for sure whether former governor Froilan Tenorio or former governor Juan N. Babauta were the last one to stay there. (Ferdie De La Torre)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-21-2031
For: Marianas Visitors Authority Desk Audit

Submission /Closing Date: July 12, 2021
Time: 11:00AM (ChST)

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **June 04, 2021** at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
JVA-21-003	SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR	MAY 24, 2021	JUNE 7, 2021

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR OTHERWISE QUALIFIED U.S. WORKER. INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: May 4, 2021 Closing Date: June 4, 2021

POSITION:
INVESTIGATOR I

EXAMINATION NO.
OPA-21-003

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan.



Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
Address: 1236 Yap Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: PO Box 501399, Saipan MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 Fax: (670) 322-7812

Position: ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Job Description: The Accounting Manager is responsible for overseeing the staff and operational functions of the Cargo Express Accounting Office in planning, organizing, and controlling all financial operations of the Company, to include strategic financial planning, annual budgeting, accounts payable, payroll, customer accounting, continuing property records, inventory, accounts receivable, cash management, miscellaneous billing, and general ledger; ensuring timely financial reporting to Cargo Express's Board of Directors and the Executive Management Team. The Accounting Manager receives general guidance from the General Manager/President and performs management and complex accounting duties with a high level of independence and professional discretion in maintaining accountability for all financial and accounting needs of Cargo Express.

Minimum Qualification: Bachelor Degree in Accounting (may be foreign equiv); 2 yrs. related work experience.

Job site: Lower Base Saipan, CNMI

Opening Date: 5/20/2021

Closing Date: 6/10/2021

Salary Range: \$32,781 / Annually

How to apply: Submit a professional resume to:
CARGO EXPRESS (SAIPAN), INC. office at Lower Base Drive, Saipan, MP 96950 OR Mail to P.O. Box 506391 Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP21-CHCC/HEMODIALYSIS-001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 5TH, 2021 TIME: 10:00PM (CHST)

“DIALYSIS CENTER – HEMODIALYSIS & PERITONEAL DIALYSIS CONSUMABLE/DISPOSABLE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP21-CHCC/CGC-BHRP-002
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 21, 2021 • TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“OFFICE LEASE”

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/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-CHCC/CGC-BHRP-001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 21, 2021 • TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“LEASE OF VEHICLES”

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/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



JOB OPENING: BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER
EUCON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Duties:

1. Manage front office staff in the performance of administrative functions.
2. Assist visitors, students and parents with Chinese/Mandarin to English and English to Chinese/Mandarin communication, as needed.
3. Provide executive level administrative assistance to school president and senior management staff
4. Compose, type, and distribute meeting notes, routine correspondence, or reports, such as presentations or expense, statistical, or monthly reports.
5. Manage projects or contribute to committee or team work.
6. Maintain scheduling and event calendars coordinate conferences, meetings, or special events.

Other requirements:

1. Bachelor's Degree in Management
2. 60 months of administrative management experience
3. Fluent bi-lingual English and Chinese/Mandarin language skills for working with our Chinese students and patrons
4. Skilled in the use of computers for database management and word processing.

Work Location: Eucon International School,
Kulales Place, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai
Mail Address: P.O. Box 500087, Saipan, MP 98950
E-Mail address: hr@eucon.edu
Tel# 1670 234 3203

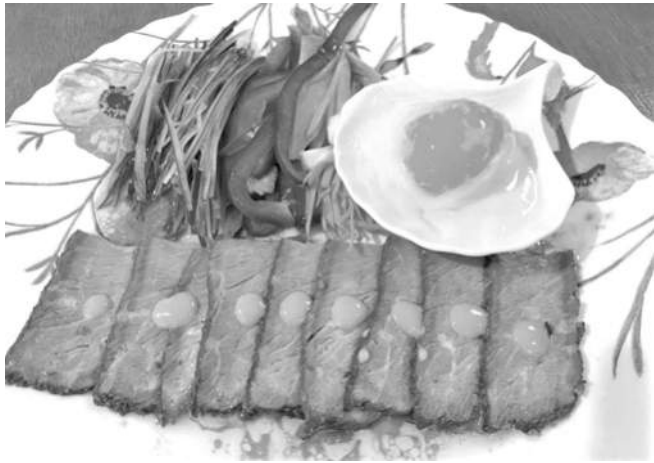
Business

Himawari's new chef: Kazuma Chaen

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

For 16 years, Himawari Restaurant Saipan located in Garapan has earned the reputation of serving authentic Japanese food at reasonable prices that leaves local residents and tourists satisfied at every visit. Recently, the restaurant welcomed Japanese chef Kazuma Chaen from Kagawa, west side of Osaka, to prepare special dishes that use local ingredients combined with traditional Japanese ingredients that bring unique flavors on the table.

According to Chaen, he is very happy to be on Saipan to make the community experience the new flavors of diverse dishes that he will bring in every week in Himawari's special menu. "I have been a chef for 23 years and those years made my style of cooking even more meaningful by being creative with the use of different flavors and ingredients that make the customers



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Roast beef that is tender and light on spices so the meat's flavor isn't overshadowed.

dining experience enjoyable," he said.

"I arrived on Saipan around two months ago and since then, I have been going around, visiting different local markets to find fresh ingredients that I can use for the weekly special dishes. The weekly specials guarantee the use of traditional local ingredients like fruits, vegetables, fish, meat, and fuse it with traditional cooking that brings

out unique flavors," he added.

The food items in the weekly special menu are available for both lunch and dinner. For this week, the specials include roast beef, assorted shellfish, lotus root nugget (*renkon*), tuna *karage*, and local favorite, *yamakake* or tuna and yam. For a group of 3 to 5 people, the grouper hot pot or *kua nabe* in Japanese awaits your indulgence and available in whole or half sizes.



BEA CABRERA

Chef Kazuma Chaen brings in new and exciting dishes every week for lunch and dinner at Himawari Restaurant Saipan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Always cooked fresh the grouper hot pot is available whole or half size.

Chaen, who once owned a restaurant in Japan and was a chef at the Japanese embassy in Sydney, Australia for three years, said that he has been

getting good feedback from customers at the restaurant. "I mingle with them, introduce myself, and the reviews that I have gotten so far are very

good and encouraging...I love it when they say 'oishi' which is delicious in Japanese," he said.

"I invite the community to try our weekly specials as we try our very best to make every dish unique... I became a chef because I love to eat and I want to pass on that joy in the dishes that I make for the community," he added.

Himawari Restaurant Saipan has two private rooms (one for 10 customers and one for six customers) available for special occasions. They are open from Monday to Sunday, 11am-1:30pm for lunch and 5pm-8:30pm for dinner. For more information, call (670) 233-1531 or (670) 233-1530. Visit their website at <https://himawarisaipan.com> or Facebook page: Himawari Saipan.

Fed survey sees faster growth despite supply-chain problems

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy grew at a somewhat faster pace in April and May despite disruptions that choked supplies to the nations manufacturers, the Federal Reserve reported Wednesday.

In the Fed's latest survey of economic conditions around the nation, several of the central bank's districts reported that increased vaccination rates and relaxed social-distancing measures were having a positive impact on the economy. But offsetting those gains were headwinds coming from supply-chain problems.

The increase in vaccination rates helped to boost consumer spending, especially in areas such as leisure travel and restaurant dining, the report said.

Factory output increased despite "significant supply chain challenges" that were continuing to disrupt production, it added.

The report also noted wide-

spread examples of price increases, with the supply-chain disruptions adding to the price pressures.

Bill Adams, senior economist at PNC Financial, noted the Fed had gathered "widespread evidence of the havoc that the pandemic has wreaked on supply chains, affecting car dealers, manufacturers and homebuilders among others."

But Adams said he expected the supply-chain problems to show marked improvement in coming months as businesses catch up with demand. For that reason, he said the Fed is likely to continue to believe that the recent spike in inflation will be transitory.

The Fed's report, known as the beige book, is based on surveys conducted by the Fed's 12 regional banks from early April to late May. The information will form the basis of discussion when Fed policymakers meet on June 15-16

to decide the future course of interest rates.

Most analysts believe that, based on the comments of Fed Chairman Jerome Powell and other Fed officials, the central bank will leave rates where they have been for the past year at a record low of 0% to 0.25% as the central bank continues to promote a strong rebound from the pandemic-triggered recession.

Businesses in some Fed districts anticipate continued cost increases for their raw materials, which will prompt them to boost their prices, the report said.

As seen in other economic reports, housing remains one of the stand-out performers of the economy.

The beige book said, "Home builders often noted that strong demand, buoyed by low mortgage interest rates, outpaced their capacity to build, leading some to limit sales."

UN says pandemic created an 'unparalleled' employment crisis

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The COVID-19 pandemic has created an "unparalleled" global labor market crisis that will affect the employment market for years, the International Labor Organization said in a report Wednesday.

The U.N. agency said that "all countries have suffered a sharp deterioration in employment and national income, which has aggravated existing inequalities and risks inflicting longer-term 'scarring' effects on workers and enterprises."

The 164-page World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021 report said the crisis has hit vulnerable workers, including 2 billion in the informal sector, women and young people the hardest.

During 2020, an estimated 8.8% of total working hours were lost -- "the equivalent of the hours worked in one year by 255 million full-time workers," the agency said. By contrast, it said, if there had not been a pandemic, the world would have created an estimated 30 million new jobs in 2020.

The Geneva-based agency said recurring waves of the pandemic around the world have caused working hour losses to remain high, with a 4.4% loss corresponding to 140 million full-time jobs in the first quarter of 2021 and a 4.4% loss in the second quarter equivalent to 127 million full-time jobs.

"The crisis is far from over," the agency added, pointing to Latin America and the Carib-

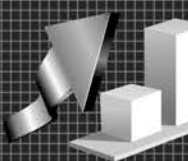
bean, Europe and Central Asia as the worst affected regions in the first half of this year.

The report said an uneven economic recovery is expected to begin in the second half of 2021, driven by progress in vaccinations and large-scale fiscal spending. It projects that the recovery will create 100 million jobs this year and an additional 80 million in 2022, but says that is still far short of pre-pandemic levels.

"To make matters worse, many of the newly created jobs are expected to be of low productivity and poor quality," the report said.

The agency predicts employment growth will be insufficient to make up for the losses suffered as a result of the pandemic until at least 2023.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

34,600.38
0.073%
+25.07

S&P

4,208.12
0.14%
+6.08

NASDAQ

13,756.33
0.14%
+19.85

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.2919
British Pound	0.7064
Canadian Dollar	1.2046
Chinese Yuan	6.2923
Euro	0.8193

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7576
Indian Rupee	72.8075
Japanese Yen	109.7130
Malaysian Ringgit	4.0886
New Zealand Dollar	1.3850
Philippine Peso	46.9842

Russian Ruble	72.3166
Singapore Dollar	1.3234
South Korean Won	1091.76
Swiss Franc	0.8985
Taiwan Dollar	27.0771
Thailand Baht	31.1010

Nation

Dallas HS valedictorian delivers abortion rights call

DALLAS (AP)—A Dallas high school valedictorian scrapped a speech approved by her school administrators and delivered an abortion rights call in its place.

Paxton Smith, the 2021 valedictorian at Lake Highlands High School, submitted to school officials an address on the effect of the media on young minds. But when she spoke at Sunday's graduation ceremony, she talked of what she called "a war on the rights" of her body and those of other girls and women by the "heartbeat bill" signed into law by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott a week and a half before.

"I cannot give up this platform to promote complacency and peace when there is a war on my body and a war on my rights. A war on the rights of your mothers, a war on the rights of your sisters, a war on the rights of your daughters. We cannot stay silent," she told her class.

The new law outlaws, without exception, any abortion after a first heartbeat can be detected. That could come as early as six weeks after conception when many women



AP
Paxton Smith, Lake Highlands High School valedictorian, poses for a photo, Wednesday, June 2, 2021, in Dallas. Smith scrapped a speech approved by her school administrators and delivered an abortion rights call in its place.

off (it wasn't) or to have her diploma withheld (it wasn't but she was told later it was considered). And she was stunned by the response to her message.

"I thought it would die right there," she said. But she saw tears in her audience midway through the speech. In the days since, video of her address posted on social media and retweeted broadly has drawn kudos from comedian Sarah Silverman, who tweeted, "Brave," and former Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, who tweeted: "This took guts. Thank you for not staying silent, Paxton."

The Richardson Independent School District, of which Lake Highlands is part, was less enthusiastic. In a statement, it said it would review student speech protocols before next year's graduation ceremonies.

"The content of each student speaker's message is the private, voluntary expression of the individual student and does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position or expression of the District or its employees," it said.

Biden, GOP senator talk as time drags on infrastructure deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—For nearly an hour, President Joe Biden and the top Senate Republican negotiating infrastructure met Wednesday behind closed doors—two seasoned legislators engaged in another round of conversations, but emerging with few outward signs of tangible progress ahead of a deadline next week.

The White House billed the private meeting as more of a conversation with West Virginia GOP Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, rather than a formal negotiation. No new offers were expected to be presented. More than anything, the session in the Oval Office was seen through the political lens of the president and Republicans trying to show the public what Americans say they want—a willingness to work together, even if no deal is within reach.

Biden and Capito had a "constructive and frank conversation," according to a White House official granted anonymity to discuss the private talks. The senator's office said she is encouraged by the ongoing conversations. The two agreed to re-

connect Friday.

Still, talks over Biden's top legislative priority have been moving slowly, a daunting undertaking given the massive infrastructure investment, and time for a deal is running out. The administration has set a June 7 deadline to see clear direction and signs of progress.

"The fact that the president is having Sen. Capito here today and has been having ongoing discussions with Republicans in the Senate and that he's eager to find a path forward on bipartisan work certainly tells you, I think, what you need to know about what he thinks about working with people even when there's disagreement," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said ahead of the afternoon session.

Privately, the president has sized up the GOP's latest \$928 billion offer as unworkable, in large part because it taps unused COVID-19 funds. Instead, Biden wants to hike the corporate tax rate—a non-starter for Senate Republicans—to generate revenue for his \$1.7 trillion package.

could be unaware that they are pregnant.

The law also would allow anyone to sue a Texas abortion provider or anyone who

helped someone get an abortion for as much as \$10,000.

The law would take effect in September, but federal courts have mostly blocked states from enforcing similar measures.

"I have dreams and hopes and ambition. Every girl graduating today does. We have spent our entire lives working towards our future, and without our input and without our consent, our control over that future has been stripped away

from us. I am terrified that if my contraceptives fail, I am terrified that if I am raped, then my hopes and aspirations and dreams and efforts for my future will no longer matter. I hope that you can feel how gut-wrenching that is, I hope that you can feel how dehumanizing it is, to have the autonomy over your own body taken from you," she said.

Smith, who plans to study the music business at the University of Texas at Austin,

said Wednesday that she had already submitted her original speech to school officials and was trying to finish an end-of-year project in the school's music room when she decided to scrap that speech.

"I couldn't keep my mind on the project. My mind kept wandering to the 'heartbeat bill' and what it meant. So, I started making some notes," she told The Associated Press.

Smith said she expected to have her microphone cut

Texas push to close shelters for migrant kids alarms groups

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A move by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to shutter more than 50 shelters housing about 4,000 migrant children could seriously disrupt a national program that already faces strained capacity to properly care for minors crossing the U.S.-Mexico border alone.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which cares for migrant children, said Wednesday that it did not intend to close any facilities but that it was "assessing" the Republican governor's late Tuesday disaster declaration. The proclamation directs a state agency to deny or discontinue within 90 days licenses for child care facilities sheltering migrant children.

Groups that represent migrant children and reunite them with their families said the order could be harmful because it may mean more minors are sent to mass-scale, unlicensed facilities that attorneys and advocates say endanger their health and safety.

Abbott argues that the federal government can't force Texas to keep issuing state licenses in response to a federal problem.

The U.S. government funds 56 shelters in Texas, out of about 200 licensed shelters in the country. The last census taken on May 19 showed 4,223 children in 52 of those state-licensed shelters, according to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

The agency was directed to remove the licenses and sent a notice to providers Wednesday telling them to wind down operations by Aug. 30.

After that date, it says, "if you are still providing care for individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States under a contract with the federal government, HHSC will take necessary steps to comply with the proclamation."

The highly unusual move to order a disaster declaration—usually reserved for natural disasters or health crises—comes amid Abbott's criticism of record numbers of border

crossings in recent months. He has increased the presence of the Texas Department of Public Safety and National Guard in south Texas.

Abbott also has been critical of emergency facilities that lack state licenses, which may end up taking in more children if his order succeeds in shuttering smaller shelters.

In April, Texas officials announced they were investigating three reports alleging abuse and neglect at a San Antonio coliseum holding more than 1,600 migrant teens. There also have been abuse or neglect investigations at state-licensed facilities, and Texas lists 18 total citations between April and May.

Some critics worry the disaster declaration could set a precedent for other Republican governors to thwart efforts by the Biden administration to increase capacity in a network of licensed shelters. Governors in Iowa and Nebraska have rejected federal requests to house migrant children, saying they oppose President

Joe Biden's stance on caring for minors before they are reunited with family in the U.S.

"This is a transparent and troubling ploy to politicize a humanitarian crisis," Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, head of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, said in a statement. "Because Texas-based shelters comprise a significant portion of U.S. capacity, this order could do real damage, and to the serious detriment of children's well-being."

The increasing arrival of migrant children has tested the Biden administration, with the U.S. government picking up nearly 19,000 children traveling alone across the Mexican border in March and more than 17,000 in April.

The record-setting numbers come as the administration decided to exempt unaccompanied children from federal pandemic-related powers to immediately expel most migrants from the country without giving them an opportunity to seek asylum.

Asia

China's silencing of Tiananmen tributes extends to HK

HONG KONG (AP)—For years, China has quashed any discussion on the mainland of its bloody 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, nearly erasing what happened from the collective consciousness. Now it may be Hong Kong's turn, as China's ruling Communist Party pulls the city more directly into its orbit.

The semi-autonomous territories of Hong Kong and nearby Macao were for years the last places on Chinese soil allowed to publicly mark the events of June 4, 1989, when the People's Liberation Army opened fire on student-led protesters in a crackdown that left hundreds, if not thousands, dead.

Before last year, tens of thousands gathered annually in Hong Kong's Victoria Park, lighting candles and singing songs to remember the victims. But authorities, citing the coronavirus pandemic, are banning that vigil for the second straight year. And a museum dedicated to the event suddenly closed Wednesday, just two days before Friday's anniversary, after authorities investigated it for lacking the necessary licenses to hold a public exhibition.

Hong Kong's security minister warned residents last week against taking part in unauthorized assemblies.

In mainland China, younger generations have grown up



with little knowledge of or debate about the crackdown, but the efforts to suppress commemorations in Hong Kong reflect another turn of the screw in Beijing's ever-tightening control over Hong Kong following massive anti-government protests in 2019. Those demonstrations evolved into months of sometimes violent clashes between smaller groups of protesters and police. And they have led to a broader crackdown on dissent in the former British colony, which was long an oasis of

capitalism and democracy and was promised that it would largely maintain its freedoms for 50 years when it was returned to China in 1997.

Since the protests, China has imposed a sweeping national security law aimed in part at stiffening the penalties for the actions that protesters engaged in, and authorities have sought to arrest nearly all of the city's outspoken and prominent pro-democracy figures. Most are either behind bars or have fled the city.

Despite the restrictions this

year, there are calls for Hong-kongers to remember the 1989 crackdown in private, with vigil organizers calling on residents to light a candle at 8 p.m. Friday no matter where they are.

Online calls circulating on social media also urged residents to dress in black on Friday. Local newspaper Ming Pao last week published an article suggesting that residents write the numbers six and four on their light switches—a nod to the June 4 date—so each flip of the switch is also an act of remembrance.

For decades, Chan Kin Wing has regularly attended the vigil in Hong Kong.

"I was lucky to have been born in Hong Kong. If I had been born on the mainland, I could have been one of the students in Tiananmen Square that day," said Chan, whose parents

AP
In this May 28, 2014, file photo, Lee Cheuk Yan poses at the June 4 Museum his pro-democracy group operates in Hong Kong.

had fled to Hong Kong from the mainland in the 1960s.

"When June 4, 1989, happened, all of Hong Kong witnessed the indelible historical event of students massacred by a corrupt regime," Chan said.

This year, Chan plans to remember the event privately, dressing in black and changing his profile picture on social media to an image of a lit candle in the dark.

"I've resolved to never forget about June 4, and strive to pass on memories of it to ensure it's never forgotten," he said.

In mainland China, the group Tiananmen Mothers that represents victims' relatives published an appeal on the Human Rights in China website urging the party to heed their long-held demands for a complete release of official records about the crackdown, compensation for those killed and injured, and for those responsible to be held to account.

Indonesia urges ASEAN to quickly appoint envoy for Myanmar

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's foreign minister on Wednesday urged the Association of Southeast Asia Nations to immediately appoint a special envoy on Myanmar in response to its military coup, and reiterated a call for the safety of civilians as the ruling junta cracks down on opposition.

After holding talks with EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell in Jakarta, Retno Marsudi said Indonesia is continuing to communicate with the ASEAN chair and other member countries following their demand for an immediate end to killings and the release of political detainees in Myanmar.

ASEAN leaders met in April in Jakarta with Myanmar's coup leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing. They also agreed that a dialogue between parties in Myanmar should immediately start, with the help of the ASEAN envoy.

"The special envoy appointment must be completed immediately," Marsudi said. "The safety and well being of the Myanmar people must continue to be a priority."

An Indonesian diplomat familiar with the Myanmar issue said Wednesday that Brunei, which currently holds ASEAN's rotating chairman-

ship, will send Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof to meet the junta on Saturday.

The diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media on the issue, said the visit is aimed at seeking Myanmar's approval of the ASEAN envoy. Myanmar is a member, and traditionally members of the bloc have refrained from interfering in each other's affairs amid criticism that its divisions and alignment with either the U.S. or China are weakening its position.

He said that naming the envoy involves both sides in Myanmar, making progress in the process slow.

According to Myanmar's Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which has kept a detailed tally of arrests and deaths since the February military takeover, 818 protesters and bystanders have been killed by security personnel since the coup. More than 4,300 people are in detention, including 104 who have already been sentenced.

Min Aung Hlaing said in an interview last week with Hong Kong-based Phoenix Television that the death toll had been exaggerated and was actually about 300, and that 47 police had been killed and more than 200 injured.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Storm leaves 3 dead, displaces thousands in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A tropical storm left at least three people dead and displaced thousands of villagers in the southern and central Philippines, where it triggered floods and landslides, officials said Wednesday. Forecasters said the storm Choi-wan was blowing off Victoria town in Oriental Mindoro province south of Manila on Wednesday afternoon with sustained winds of 65 kilometers (40 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 90 kph (56 mph). It was moving northwestward and may weaken as it blows toward the South China Sea on Thursday, they said. At least three people died, including a 14-year-old villager who rushed with her father to a riverbank to rescue their farm animals in intense rain but were swept away by strong currents in Norala town in South Cotabato province. The father remains missing, disaster response officials said. A

baby died in a landslide that hit a mountainous town in southern Davao de Oro province and a 71-year-old man drowned in Davao del Sur province, also in the south, officials said. Coast guard personnel rescued villagers who were trapped in houses engulfed in rising floodwater, including in Southern Leyte province, where they carried 40 residents, including children, in waist-deep waters to a gymnasium.

AstraZeneca starts deliveries of Thailand-made vaccines

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—AstraZeneca's partner in Thailand on Wednesday began its first deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines after concerns they were behind on their production schedules for the country and parts of Southeast Asia. Siam Bioscience said the first locally produced AstraZeneca doses were delivered to Thailand's Ministry of Health ahead of the June 7 start of the country's official mass vaccination

program. It did not say how many were delivered. AstraZeneca signed with Siam Bioscience last year to be its vaccine production and distribution center in Southeast Asia. It said that the vaccines would be ready for export to other Southeast Asian countries in July. As part of the plan, AstraZeneca has to deliver 6 million doses to Thailand in June, and 10 million doses monthly from July to November, with a final 5 million doses in December. China's Sinovac has also been supplying Thailand with vaccines, with nearly 6 million in the pipeline. A total of five vaccines have been approved by the Thai government, but so far only two are available for use.

Japan gives \$800M to UN-backed COVID-19 vaccine program

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's prime minister announced Wednesday an additional \$800 million contribution to the U.N.-backed initiative to provide COVID-19 vaccines

to poor countries, a four-fold increase of Japanese funding for the COVAX program. The pledge by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga comes as his government attempts to accelerate vaccinations in Japan, one of the world's least inoculated countries, only about 50 days before it hosts the Olympics amid a continuing surge in infections. He spoke as Japan co-sponsored a fundraising event for COVAX with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which helps run the program. The program managers are seeking about \$2 billion more to reach a target of \$8.3 billion for its effort to fund free vaccines for low- and middle-income countries around the world. "Now is the time for us to act," Suga said, leading a parade of world and humanitarian leaders who announced pledges and commitments on Wednesday. He said the additional \$800 million will bring Japan's contribution to \$1 billion, second to the \$2.5 billion pledged by the United States.

World

Canadian minister says pope needs to apologize to indigenous

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's Indigenous services minister said Wednesday that Pope Francis needs to issue a formal apology for the role the Catholic Church played in Canada's residential school system, days after the remains of 215 children were located at what was once the country's largest such school.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government also pledged again to support efforts to find more unmarked graves at the former residential schools for Indigenous students - institutions that held Indigenous children taken from families across the nation.

Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation in British Columbia has said the remains of 215 children were confirmed last month at the school in Kamloops, British Columbia, with the help of ground-penetrating radar. So far none has been excavated.

The Kamloops Indian Residential School was Canada's largest such facility and was operated by the Roman Catholic Church between 1890 and 1969 before the federal government took it over as a day school until 1978, when it was closed. Nearly three-quarters of the 130 schools were run by Catholic missionary congregations.

A papal apology was one of the 94 recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was set up as part of a government apology and settlement over the schools, and Trudeau personally asked the pope to



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visits a memorial at the Eternal Flame on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, that's in recognition of discovery of children's remains at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia.

were forced to convert to Christianity and not allowed to speak their native languages. Many were beaten and verbally abused, and up to 6,000 are said to have died.

The Canadian government apologized in Parliament in 2008 and admitted that physical and sexual abuse in the schools was rampant. Many students recalled being beaten for speaking their languages. They also lost touch with their parents and customs.

The archbishop of Vancouver apologized Wednesday.

"I am writing to express my deep apology and profound condolences to the families and communities that have been devastated by this horrific news," Archbishop Michael Miller tweeted.

consider such a gesture during a visit to the Vatican in 2017.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops announced in 2018 that the pope could not personally apologize for residential schools, even though he has not shied away from recognizing injustices faced by Indigenous people around the world.

"I think it is shameful that it hasn't been done to date," Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller said.

"There is a responsibility that lies squarely on the shoulders" on the Catholic bishops of Canada, he added.

Indigenous Relations Min-

ister Carolyn Bennett added that an apology by the Pope would help those who suffered heal.

"They want to hear the Pope apologize," she said.

Trudeau said in 2018 he was disappointed by the Catholic church's decision.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment for the latest call for a formal public apology by the Pope.

Former Pope Benedict met with a group of former students and victims in 2009 and told them of his "personal anguish" over their suffering,

Phil Fontaine, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said at the time.

From the 19th century until the 1970s, more than 150,000

First Nations children were required to attend state-funded Christian schools as part of a program to assimilate them into Canadian society. They

WORLD BRIEFS

More than 100 LGBTQ candidates compete in Mexican election

MEXICO CITY (AP)—For years, transgender activist Roshell Terranova protested in the streets and knocked on the doors of Mexico's Congress to make the demands of the country's LGBTQ community known. Now thanks to her efforts and an electoral rule change, Terranova is running for Congress in a first for Mexico. Terranova will be one of more than 100 members of Mexico's LGBTQ community participating in Sunday's mid-term elections that will fill the 500 seats of the lower chamber of the Congress, as well as state and local posts across the country. It is the largest number of LGBTQ candidates in Mexico's history, according to Carla Humphrey, an official with the National Electoral Institute. The likelihood of success of the candidates for some of the more than 20,000 posts in play Sunday remains unknown, but activists, analysts and members of the LGBTQ community say the sheer number of candidates is a victory. It signals a departure from a history of hiding sexual identity to pursue a political career. The surge in LGBTQ participation follows an order from electoral authorities for political parties to include those candidates on their slates as part of their "affirmative action" efforts, which seek "to generate and open spaces to vulnerable groups," Humphrey said. "They must be made visible and have a voice and be able to influence," Humphrey said.

Lebanese leaders exchange barbs as country sinks into crisis

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanon's president and prime minister-designate traded barbs Wednesday, accusing one another of obstruction, negligence and insolence in a war or words that has for months obstructed the formation of a new government as the country sinks deeper into economic and financial crisis. The power struggle between the premier-designate, Saad Hariri,

on one side and President Michel Aoun and his son-in-law Gebran Bassil on the other, has worsened despite warnings from world leaders and economic experts of the dire economic conditions tiny Lebanon is facing. The World Bank on Tuesday said Lebanon's crisis is one of the worst the world has seen in the past 150 years. In a reflection of the growing turmoil, scores of Lebanese lined up in front of ATM machines late on Wednesday, after a top court suspended a Central Bank decree that allowed them to withdraw from dollar deposits at a rate two and a half times better than the fixed exchange rate. In a late night burst of anger, protesters blocked main roads in Beirut and north of the capital. A young activist told a local TV station the protest was against the constant humiliation of Lebanese who line up to fill their cars with fuel, increasing power cuts, search for medicine and deal with confused banking decisions that are robbing thousands of their savings.

Romania launches drive to vaccinate 12- to 15-year-olds

BUCHAREST (AP)—Romania on Wednesday started administering COVID-19 vaccines to young teenagers aged 12 to 15, after the European Medicines Agency approved use of the Pfizer jab last week for that age group in the 27-nation European Union. National vaccination committee chief Valeriu Gheorghita said more than 2,100 appointments were made for children in the past 24 hours via the online national booking platform. Vaccination centers will also accept no-appointment walk-ins, he said, speaking at the inauguration of a children's vaccination center in the capital, Bucharest. "By authorizing the vaccination of those between 12 to 15 years old, we bring an important advantage especially for kids with chronic diseases or other conditions which make them vulnerable to serious illness," Gheorghita said.

Netanyahu opponents reach coalition deal to oust Israeli PM

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's opponents announced Wednesday that they have reached a deal to form a new governing coalition, paving the way for the ouster of the longtime Israeli leader.

The dramatic announcement by opposition leader Yair Lapid and his main coalition partner, Naftali Bennett, came shortly before a midnight deadline and prevented what could have been Israel's fifth consecutive election in just over two years.

"This government will work for all the citizens of Israel, those that voted for it and those that didn't. It will do everything to unite Israeli society," Lapid said.

The agreement still needs to be approved by the Knesset, or parliament, in a vote that is expected to take place early next week. If it goes through,

Lapid and a diverse array of partners that span the Israeli political spectrum will end Netanyahu's record-setting but divisive 12-year rule.

Netanyahu, desperate to remain in office while he fights corruption charges, is expected to do everything possible in the coming days to prevent the new coalition from taking power. If he fails, he will be pushed into the opposition.

The deal comes at a tumultuous time for Israel, which fought an 11-day war against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip last month while also experiencing mob violence between Jews and Arabs in cities across the country. The country also is emerging from a coronavirus crisis that caused deep economic damage and exposed tensions between the secular majority and the ultra-Orthodox minority.

Under the agreement, La-

pid and Bennett will split the job of prime minister in a rotation. Bennett, a former ally of Netanyahu, is to serve the first two years, while Lapid is to serve the final two years—though it is far from certain their fragile coalition will last that long.

The historic deal also includes a small Islamist party, the United Arab List, which would make it the first Arab party ever to be part of a governing coalition.

In the coming days, Netanyahu is expected to continue to put pressure on hard-liners in the emerging coalition to defect and join his religious and nationalist allies. Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin, a member of Netanyahu's Likud party, may also use his influence to delay the required parliamentary vote. There was no immediate comment from Netanyahu or Likud.

Off The Wall

China tries to keep elephant herd out of a city of 7 million

BEIJING (AP)—A herd of 15 wild elephants that walked 500 kilometers (300 miles) from a nature reserve in China's mountain southwest were approaching the major city of Kunming on Wednesday as authorities rushed to try to keep them out of populated areas.

Chinese wildlife authorities say they don't know why the herd left a nature reserve last year near the city of Pu'er, a region known for tea cultivation. The group was 16 animals, but the government says two returned home and a baby was born during the walk.

Authorities have blocked traffic on roads while the elephants crossed and were setting up barriers and using food as bait to try to keep them away from Kunming and other populated areas.

On Wednesday, the herd was in Yuxi, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Kunming, a city of 7 million people, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It said images taken by



In this aerial photo file photo taken on May 28, 2021, and released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a herd of wild Asian elephants stands in E'shan county in southwestern China's Yunnan Province. HU CHAO/XINHUA VIA AP, FILE

drones used to track the herd show six female and three male adults, three juveniles and three calves.

Chen Mingyong, an Asian elephant expert cited by Xinhua, said the incident was the longest-distance migration of wild elephants recorded in China. Chen said it was possible their leader "lacks experience and led the whole group astray."

A task force of 360 people

with 76 cars and nine drones was tracking the elephants, Xinhua said.

Last week, the elephants walked wandered the streets of the town of Eshan for six hours after residents were warned to stay indoors, according to Xinhua.

Damage done by the elephants to farmland is estimated at 6.8 million yuan (\$1.1 million), according to Xinhua.

Teen shoves bear that swatted family dog

BRADBURY, Calif. (AP)—Hailey Morinico didn't hesitate when she saw a large bear facing off with her family dogs from the top of a wall in their Southern California backyard.

The 17-year-old ran outside and shoved the bear away, then rounded up the dogs and went back inside her house in suburban Bradbury, east of Los Angeles.

Home surveillance video aired by the ABC 7 television station shows the mother bear perched atop the wall, swat-

ting at a large black dog on the ground. Two bear cubs are seen behind the bear while four smaller dogs bark and dart around the yard.

Morinico sprints toward the bear, uses both hands to push the large bear off the wall and picks up one of the smaller dogs. She and the other dogs then run out of the video frame.

The bears disappear over a wall into a neighbor's yard.

"Honestly, the only thing I had in mind was to protect my dogs," Morinico.

The teen said she escaped with only a sprained finger and a scraped knee but wouldn't advise anyone to follow her example.

She was only thinking about protecting her dogs, Morinico said.

"Do not push bears and do not get close to bears," she told KCAL-TV. "You do not want to get unlucky. I just happened to come out unscathed."

Bradbury is a foothill community on the edge of Angeles National Forest.

Gator swaps swamp life for beach getaway

PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE, Texas (AP)—A young alligator traced to the Louisiana bayous traded swamp scum for a sandy Padre Island beach in South Texas.

In an unusual spin from "Jaws," the gator showed up Monday on Malaquite Beach, about 25 miles (40.23 kilometers) southeast of Corpus Christi, Padre Island National Seashore officials said in a Facebook post.

National Park Service rangers found it and checked its tail notch and tags on its rear feet to determine it had come from Louisiana.

How it got to South Texas remains a mystery, but its spring break ended abruptly as rangers took it to a rehabilitation center



This May 24, 2021 photo provided by the National Park Service shows a young alligator traced to the Louisiana bayous on Padre Island beach in South Texas. AP

to recover from its journey.

While alligators can tolerate saltwater for a few hours or even days, they are primarily freshwater reptiles living in

swampy areas, rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds, according to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website.

Science & Technology

Study finds that wildfire killed 10% of world's giant sequoias

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP)—At least a tenth of the world's mature giant sequoia trees were destroyed by a single California wildfire that tore through the southern Sierra Nevada last year, according to a draft report prepared by scientists with the National Park Service.

The Visalia Times-Delta newspaper obtained a copy of the report that describes catastrophic destruction from the Castle Fire, which charred 273 square miles (707 square km) of timber in Sequoia National Park.

Researchers used satellite imagery and modeling from previous fires to determine that between 7,500 and 10,000 of the towering species perished in the fire. That equates to 10% to 14% of the world's mature giant sequoia population, the newspaper said.

"I cannot overemphasize how mind-blowing this is for all of us. These trees have lived for thousands of years. They've survived dozens of wildfires already," said Christy Brigham, chief of resources management and science at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

The consequences of losing large numbers of giant sequoias could be felt for decades, forest managers said. Redwood and sequoia forests are among the world's most efficient at removing and storing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The groves also provide critical



In this April 22, 2021, photo provided by Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, is a stand of burned sequoias in the Board Camp Grove in Sequoia National Park, Calif., following the 2020 Castle Fire. AP

habitat for native wildlife and help protect the watershed that supplies farms and communities on the San Joaquin Valley floor.

Brigham, the study's lead author, cautioned that the numbers are preliminary and the research paper has yet to be peer reviewed. Beginning next week, teams of scientists will hike to the groves that experienced the most fire damage for the first time since the ashes settled.

"I have a vain hope that once we get out on the ground the situation won't be as bad, but that's hope—that's not science," she said.

The newspaper said the extent of the damage to one of the world's most treasured trees is noteworthy because the sequoias themselves are incredibly well adapted to fire. The old-growth trees—some of which are more than 2,000 years old and 250 feet (76 meters) tall—require fire to burst their pine cones and reproduce.

"One-hundred years of fire suppression, combined with climate change-driven hotter droughts, have changed how fires burn in the southern Sierra and that change has been very bad for sequoia," Brigham said.

NASA picks Venus as hot spot for 2 robot missions

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA is returning to sizzling Venus, our closest yet perhaps most overlooked neighbor, after decades of exploring other worlds.

The space agency's new administrator, Bill Nelson, announced two new robotic missions to the solar system's hottest planet, during his first major address to employees Wednesday.

"These two sister missions both aim to understand how Venus became an inferno-like world capable of melting lead at the surface," Nelson said.

One mission named Da Vinci Plus will analyze the thick, cloudy Venusian atmosphere in an attempt to determine whether the inferno planet ever had an ocean

and was possibly habitable. A small craft will plunge through the atmosphere to measure the gases.

It will be the first U.S.-led mission to the Venusian atmosphere since 1978.

The other mission, called Veritas, will seek a geologic history by mapping the rocky planet's surface.

"It is astounding how little we know about Venus," but the new missions will give fresh views of the planet's atmosphere, made up mostly of carbon dioxide, down to the core, NASA scientist Tom Wagner said in a statement. "It will be as if we have re-discovered the planet."

NASA's top science official, Thomas Zurbuchen, calls it "a new decade of Venus." Each mission—launch-

ing sometime around 2028 to 2030—will receive \$500 million for development under NASA's Discovery program.

The missions beat out two other proposed projects, to Jupiter's moon Io and Neptune's icy moon Triton.

The U.S. and the former Soviet Union sent multiple spacecraft to Venus in the early days of space exploration. NASA's Mariner 2 performed the first successful flyby in 1962, and the Soviets' Venera 7 made the first successful landing in 1970.

In 1989, NASA used a space shuttle to send its Magellan spacecraft into orbit around Venus.

The European Space Agency put a spacecraft around Venus in 2006.

Life & Style

Trump Justice Dept. seized phone records of 4 NYT reporters

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump Justice Department secretly obtained the phone records of four New York Times reporters as part of a leak investigation, the newspaper reported Wednesday.

It is the third instance over the last month in which a news media organization has disclosed that federal authorities seized the records of its journalists in an effort to identify sources for national security stories published during President Donald Trump's administration.

President Joe Biden has said

he would not allow the Justice Department to continue the practice of obtaining reporters' records, calling it "simply, simply wrong."

Justice Department spokesman Anthony Coley said the department notified the four reporters on Wednesday that it had obtained their phone toll records last year and that it had sought to obtain non-content email records as part of "a criminal investigation into the unauthorized disclosure of classified information."

The newspaper said the records that were seized covered

a nearly four-month period in 2017 and belonged to reporters Matt Apuzzo, Adam Goldman, Eric Lichtblau and Michael S. Schmidt. Lichtblau has since left the newspaper.

The journalists are neither the subjects nor the targets of the investigation, Coley said.

"Forthcoming annual public reports from the Department

covering 2019 and 2020 will indicate that members of the news media have now been notified in every instance in this period in which their records were sought or obtained in such circumstances," Coley said.

The Justice Department did not disclose which article it was investigating, according to the newspaper.

But the period covered by the phone record seizure encompasses an April 2017 story from the four journalists that described the decision-making of then-FBI Director James Comey during the conclusion of the Hillary Clinton email investigation, and that referenced a classified document obtained by Russian hackers.

Dean Baquet, the executive editor of The Times, said in a statement published by the newspaper that seizing reporters' phone records "profoundly undermines press freedom."

"It threatens to silence the sources we depend on to provide the public with essential information about what the government is doing," Baquet said.

Hong Kong's Tiananmen museum shuts down amid investigation

HONG KONG (AP)—A Hong Kong museum commemorating China's deadly 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protests closed Wednesday three days after opening as the ruling Communist Party tries to stamp out the last traces of public discussion of the event.

Hong Kong was the last place on Chinese soil where

the party's attack on protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square was commemorated with candlelight vigils and other events. But authorities have banned public ceremonies for the second year amid a campaign by Beijing to crush pro-democracy activism in the territory.

Organizers of the June 4

Museum said it closed after authorities investigated whether it had licenses to conduct public exhibitions. The Hong Kong Alliance of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China said it wanted to protect staff and visitors while the group sought legal advice.

Public memorials have long been banned on the mainland.

Relatives of people who were killed in the crackdown often are detained or harassed by authorities ahead of the anniversary.

The group, which has organized candlelight vigils in Hong Kong in past years that attracted thousands of people, said the museum received more than 550 visitors since it opened Sunday.

Leibovitz photo fronts memoir by business leader Indra Nooyi

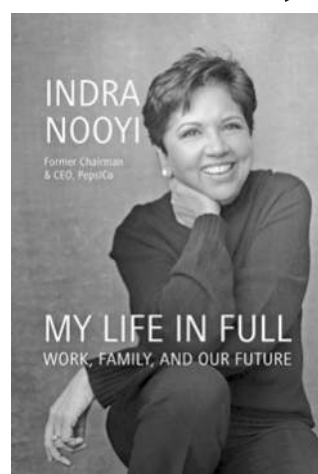
NEW YORK (AP)—After decades of photographing rock stars, movie stars and heads of state, Annie Leibovitz has added a business leader to her portfolio: Former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi.

Leibovitz's shot of a stylish but relatively casual Nooyi, wearing a dark sweater and pants, will appear on the cover of Nooyi's memoir "My Life in Full," scheduled to come out Sept. 28.

Nooyi is expected to write about her childhood in India, her experiences as an immigrant at Yale University's business school and how she became the rare woman and person of color to reach the highest levels of corporate power.

She worked at PepsiCo for 24 years, 12 of them as CEO, before stepping down in 2018.

"It is not so much that Indra is a CEO but it is who she is," Leibovitz said in a statement Wednesday. "I have always



ANNIE LEBOVITZ/
PORTFOLIO BOOKS VIA AP

This cover image released by Portfolio Books shows "My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future," a memoir by Indra Nooyi, scheduled for release on Sept. 28.

been interested in what someone does. Indra has paved the way for so many women in business. As a mother, I would like my three daughters to read her memoir."

David Diop wins International Booker Prize with WWI story

LONDON (AP)—A harrowing but poetic tale of comradeship, colonialism and the horrors of war won the International Booker Prize for fiction on Wednesday.

"At Night All Blood is Black" by French writer David Diop beat five other finalists to take the 50,000-pound (\$70,000) prize, which is open

to fiction in any language that has been translated into English. The prize money will be split between the author and his translator, Anna Moschovakis.

The novel is narrated by Alfa Ndiaye, a Senegalese soldier fighting for the then-imperial power France during World War I, and charts his descent into madness on the battlefield.

UK to mark queen's Platinum Jubilee with 4 days of events

LONDON (AP)—Britain will celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne with four days of festivities beginning with her ceremonial birthday parade on June 2, 2022.

Buckingham Palace on Wednesday announced the schedule of public events and

community activities to mark the 95-year-old monarch's Platinum Jubilee, which will be celebrated over a special four-day holiday weekend next year.

The celebration will kick off with the first full staging of Trooping the Colour, the parade of more than 1,400 sol-

diers that marks the queen's official birthday, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A thanksgiving service will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral to mark her 70 years on the throne. There will also be a live concert, billed as the "Platinum Party at the Pal-

ace," which the government says will feature some of the "world's biggest entertainment stars," though it didn't identify them.

The queen's reign began with the death of her father, King George VI, on Feb. 6, 1952. She was formally crowned on June 2, 1953.

Spouse removes wedding ring during separation

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I separated three months ago. She has moved out into her own apartment. We are not legally separated or divorced. She removed her wedding ring three weeks after she left. I want to reconcile. Whether she does at this point, she's not sure. She says she isn't seeing anyone, nor is she interested in anyone. I want to keep wearing my wedding ring, but because she's not wearing hers, I feel like an idiot wearing mine. What is the proper etiquette for us?

CAN'T LET GO

DEAR CAN'T LET GO: A wedding ring indicates that the person—female or male—is unavailable for a romantic involvement. When your wife removed her ring, the message she was sending out is that her marriage is over—whether you two are officially divorced or not. Now you need to do what is comfortable for yourself. Because you want to reconcile, give her a deadline to make up her mind whether the separation is permanent, and suggest marriage counseling to settle your differences. After that, if she still isn't interested and wants a divorce, talk to a lawyer.

DEAR ABBY: I live in an affluent neighborhood where a group of us get together for drinks, holidays, etc. But out of seven women in the group, only two or three are given birthday

parties every year. The rest of us are never acknowledged -- not even with a card.

I'm tired of going to celebrate someone else's birthday when mine is passed over with no mention. This may seem petty, but after years of this, it has gotten old. I've thought of saying something, but I'm not sure how to express it. Or should I just keep my mouth shut?

OVERLOOKED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR OVERLOOKED: Is everyone in that group aware of when all of the members' birthdays are? Because you haven't spoken up, they may not be. I don't think it would be poor form to pipe up at the next get-together that "Jennifer," "Angelina," "Viola" and you also have birthdays coming up and when they occur. If none of them are acknowledged after that, speak up as a group and say humorously that your feelings are hurt. However, if still no effort is made, the four or five of you should consider celebrating your birthdays separately.

DEAR ABBY: In the last few years, a good friend has grown increasingly radical in his political views, which caused a severe rupture in our friendship. I am still hurt by what transpired because it turned personal at one point.

My friend has now written an apology for his extremism and asked for my forgiveness. I can't help but wonder whether, if

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



the political climate hadn't changed, he would be apologizing now. How do I forgive my friend, and perhaps open a path to a renewed friendship, while I still feel this way?

NERVOUS ABOUT THIS IN NEW YORK

DEAR NERVOUS: You can (possibly) manage it by concentrating on the positive aspects of the relationship you shared rather than dwelling on the pain of the rupture. It can be done. It's called selective memory.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



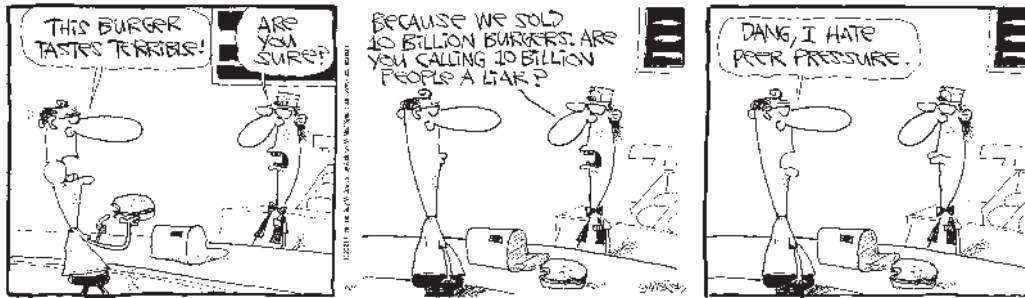
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sean of "Rudy" kin
6 Heart chart (Abbr.)
9 Venomous viper
12 Stage denial
13 Dundee
14 TV pioneer
15 Pugilist
16 Fashion designer and film director
18 Flu symptoms
20 Mosque VIP
21 Hit show letters
23 "— haw!" (rodeo cry)
24 Andean beast
25 Engine noise
27 Defy authority
29 Saudi neighbor
31 New Hampshire town
35 Coffin stands

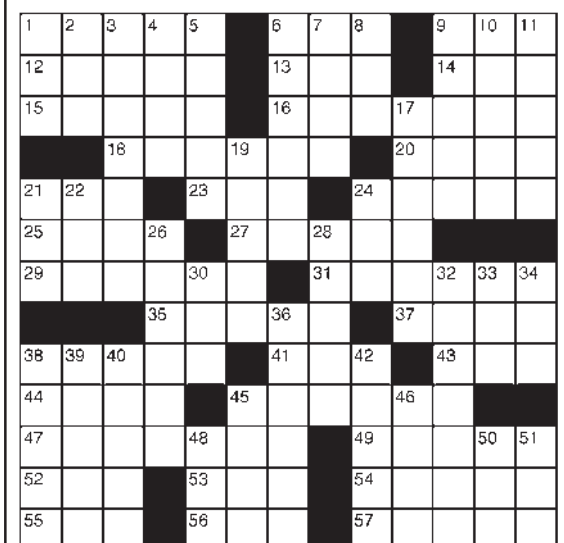
DOWN

37 Ostrich
41 Not 'neath
43 Guitar's kin
44 Baby elephant
45 Sums
47 Tom Cruise legal thriller
49 Remote locations?
52 Fair hirer, in ads
53 Marseilles monarch
54 Poet's muse
55 Speck
56 Sailor's "yes"

17 Wood repair paste
19 Haunting
21 CIA operative
22 Regret
24 Superman foe
26 Snub
28 Plague
30 Zilch
32 To date
33 Comics cry
34 Singer Carly — Jepsen
36 Rent sharer
38 Played a part
39 "Yippee!"
40 Swift
42 Demolishes, in Dover
45 Helen's home
46 Traditional tales
48 401(k) alternative
50 Justice Dept. agency
51 "Mayday!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-4



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tim Rozon, 45; Russell Brand, 46; Angelina Jolie, 46; Michael Greyeyes, 54.

Happy Birthday: Take your time, verify information, and review and make changes as you move forward. Taking precautions and overseeing anything you leave in someone's hands will ensure that you reach the goals you set out to achieve this year. Pay attention to detail, and do your best to be the best. Personal gain is within reach. Your numbers are 2, 13, 16, 24, 29, 35, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your message simple, to the point and easy to complete. Be prepared to walk away from anyone looking for a fight or a chance to criticize you. Don't lose sight of the truth or fear questioning someone offering incomplete answers. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pay attention to responsibilities, and leave nothing to chance. Look at the cost involved before you take on a project that has potential pitfalls. Voice your concerns and include a safety net to protect against loss. An unexpected opportunity will entice you. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Live up to your promises; you'll win approval. Stick to the truth and respectfully decline to get involved with anyone who is alluding to doing the impossible. Be smart and handle matters with confidence and a conscientious attitude. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't stress over something you cannot change. Shake it off and learn from the experience. Pay attention to what you can do to

make your life and the world around you better. Be part of the solution, not the problem. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Deal with stress by doing something geared toward improving your strength and agility. Good health will lift your spirits and encourage you to contribute to making the world around you function better. A realistic approach to money matters is encouraged. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone will charm you into something that isn't financially feasible if you aren't careful. If you want to lend a helping hand, offer your time or services, not your hard-earned cash. A romantic gesture will boost your morale. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your heart and soul into whatever you do. The results you get will be impressive and give you a competitive edge when up against someone who is always out to one-up you. Be gracious and humble; it will sweeten your success. ***

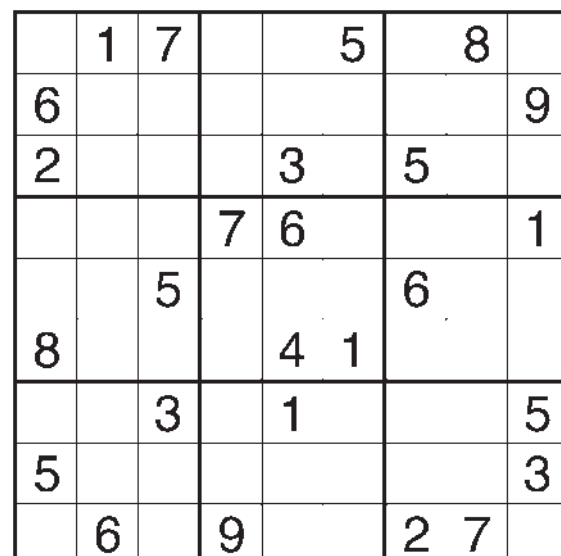
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't limit what you can do. Set your sights on your destination of choice, and don't stop until you are happy with the results you get. Amazing opportunities are within reach. Good things will transpire. Let go of nonessentials. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take nothing for granted. Verify information before passing it along. Protect your reputation and meaningful relationships. Choose discipline and willpower over self-destruction and peer pressure. Set goals and high standards. Make positive lifestyle adjustments. *****

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



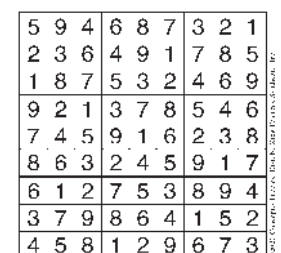
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/04

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level: ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotional anger will not help a situation you face with a friend or relative. Take a moment to rethink your strategy, and choose to give others the same freedom you expect in return. Keep your opinions to yourself. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Hard work will pay off. A change you make at home will give you the space to do something creative. Put your energy where it counts; you'll turn something you enjoy doing into a lucrative pastime. Protect your money and possessions. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take matters into your hands if you don't trust someone to do things your way. Facts and truth will make a difference to the way things turn out. An emotional matter will require common sense. Personal improvement is encouraged. ***

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, aggressive and complex. You are perceptive and friendly.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PRINCE PHILIP (1921-2021)

Solution: 12 letters

C O N S T A N T I N E C I L A
B A F T A S C O T O L I P N N
D A E L I Z A B E T H G N O D
N E E U Q M M R O W E E E R R
Y A O A S A I K I S D O Q A E
H L G Y L E L L C H W R U B W
G S R N E C T L H O O A G E N N
R M E N G I A R K W R E S A M
U L B K A R D A A R D H T V A
B E N M L R E A N H A R Y R
N E E O A I L E E A C M I H G
I H T S P L A R C H I E A O A
D T T G O R T T N E K D N R R
E B A L M O R A L H A R A S E
T M B U C K I N G H A M E E T

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6/4

Alice, Andrew, Anne, Archie, Ascot, BAFTA, Balmoral, Baron, Battenberg, Buckingham, Camilla, Charles, Charlotte, Constantine, Diana, Earl, Edinburgh, Edward, Elizabeth, Equestrian, George, Greece, Harry, Head, Horse, HRH, Kant, Kenya, Lead, Louis, Magpie, Malta, Margaret, Mark, Meet, Navy, Pilot, Queen, Rock, Sarah, Show, Team, The Elms, William

Yesterday's Answer: Face
Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Doncic scores 42 and leads Mavs over Clippers, 105-100



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Luka Doncic scored 42 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. hit two free throws with eight seconds left, and the Dallas Mavericks edged the Los Angeles Clippers 105-100 on Wednesday night to take a 3-2 lead in the first-round playoff series.

It's the third playoff series in NBA history — and first since 1995 — in which the road team won the first five games, according to Elias Sports Bureau.

The Mavs can close out their first series victory since winning the 2011 NBA championship with a win in Game 6 at home Friday in front of a full house.

Hardaway Jr. added 20 points, the only other Mavs player in double figures. Doncic's points were two off his career playoff high. He had a career high 14 assists and added eight rebounds.

Paul George led five Clippers starters in double figures with 23 points and 10 rebounds after playing the fourth quarter with four fouls. Kawhi Leonard and Reggie Jackson each added 20 points.

The Clippers bounced back after falling behind by 16 points early in the fourth. They outscored the Mavs 16-6 to get to 95-91, despite turnovers and misses by George and Leonard.

But Hardaway stole the ball from George and hit a 3-pointer. Kristaps Porzingis followed with another 3 and the Mavs led 101-91.

Still, the Clippers weren't done. They ran off nine straight points to get to 101-100 on consecutive 3-pointers by Jackson and Marcus Morris, and a three-point play by Leonard.

Terance Mann stole the ball, drawing roars from the small masked crowd, but Nicolas Batum missed a layup during a wild scramble in which Morris fouled Hardaway. He made both for a 103-100 lead.

Doncic showed no effects from a neck strain. He rallied the Mavs in



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic, left, tries to shoot as Los Angeles Clippers center Ivica Zubac defends during the first half in Game 5 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Wednesday, June 2, 2021, in Los Angeles.

the third, when they outscored the Clippers 33-21 after leading 56-54 at halftime. Dallas closed the quarter on a 22-3 run, including 11 by Doncic, to lead 89-75.

After hitting three straight 3-pointers, two by Jackson, the Clippers stalled out. George picked up two quick fouls and Leonard committed two turnovers. Rajon Rondo tossed up an airball and missed a jumper, and Leonard closed the third with two misses.

The Clippers harassed former teammate Boban Marjanovic in the third. The 7-foot-4 Serb bobbled the ball several times when Doncic tried passing inside to him. Doncic finally took things into his own hands, doing most of the scoring the rest of the period.

Maxi Kleber and Morris tangled in the first quarter, with Kleber being assessed a technical and Morris getting a Flagrant-1 after a video review. Morris' left arm slammed

across Kleber's throat and he responded by shoving Morris on the baseline. They also collided in the second quarter, with Morris ending up on the floor.

After missing their first four shots of the game, the Clippers made five straight 3-pointers. Doncic responded for the Mavs, hitting four 3-pointers on his way to 19 points in the first quarter. He had 27 by halftime, the only Mavs player in double figures.

Hawks 103, Knicks 89

In New York, Trae Young put the finishing touches on his impressive first playoff series with 36 points and nine assists and Atlanta beat New York in Game 5.

Clint Capela backed up his confident words from a day earlier with 14 points and 15 rebounds for the Hawks, who will play the top-seeded Philadelphia 76ers in their first trip to the Eastern Conference

semifinals since 2016. That series begins Sunday.

Young never looked like a playoff rookie, hitting the winning shot with 0.9 seconds left in the opener and scoring at least 20 points in every game. He made a 3-pointer with 43 seconds left for a 15-point lead, then stood at midcourt and bowed to the crowd that jeered him all series.

The profane chants toward the point guard were less frequent than in Games 1 or 2. Young was never rattled by the fans, one of whom was banned after spitting on Young in Game 2. Now he has silenced them for the summer.

Julius Randle had 23 points and 13 rebounds for the Knicks to finish his disappointing first postseason. The winner of the NBA's Most Improved Player award shot 8 for 21 from the field and finished 28 for 94 (29.8%) in the series.

He led the Knicks to a 41-31 record in their first season under Tom

Thibodeau, with a pair of 40-point games during a three-game season sweep of Atlanta. But the Hawks were by far the better team in this series, with only a poor second half of Game 2 keeping them from a sweep.

76ers 129, Wizards 112

In Philadelphia, Seth Curry scored a playoff career-high 30 points and Philadelphia beat Washington 129-112 on Wednesday night to end the series in five games, overcoming star center Joel Embiid's absence because of a knee injury.

Tobias Harris added 28 points and teamed with Curry and Ben Simmons to carry the offensive load with Embiid out. Simmons had 19 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds to keep the top-seeded 76ers in the hunt for their first championship since 1983.

Embiid is day to day with a small lateral meniscus tear in his right knee and he was reduced to Philadelphia's biggest cheerleader as the Sixers put the misery of last season's first-round sweep behind them.

Bradley Beal led Washington with 32 points. Russell Westbrook had 24.

Jazz 126, Grizzlies 110

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 26 of his 30 points in the first half and Utah advanced to the second round, beating Memphis in Game 5.

Mitchell also had 10 assists and six rebounds in 29 minutes, getting a little rest before facing the winner of the Los Angeles Clippers-Dallas Mavericks matchup.

Jordan Clarkson scored 24 points, Rudy Gobert had 23 points and 15 rebounds and Bojan Bogdanovic added 17 points to help power the top-seeded Jazz to their fourth straight victory.

Ja Morant had 27 points and 11 assists for Memphis. Dillon Brooks also had 27 points, and Jonas Valanciunas added 18.

Stevens replacing Ainge as team president in Celtics shakeup

BOSTON (AP)—Danny Ainge, who helped bring two NBA titles to Boston as a player and another as the team's basketball boss, stepped down from the Celtics front office just hours after they were eliminated from the postseason, and coach Brad Stevens is giving up his job on the bench to replace him.

Stevens will lead the search for his successor, the Celtics said in a news conference Wednesday. He leaves as the fourth-winningest coach in franchise history, but one who failed to hang a championship banner from the rafters.

"Hiring a new coach will give us a great opportunity to hire somebody that will be ... a new, fresh voice with a new, fresh perspective," Stevens said. "They don't have to fill Doc Rivers' shoes, like I did. And they don't have to fill Danny Ainge's shoes, like I do. They just have to figure out a way to be better than the last guy."

Stevens, who left Butler in 2013 after leading the Bulldogs to back-to-back trips to the NCAA championship game, ends his only NBA coaching job with a 354-282 record that included three trips to the conference finals in the previous four years.

This year's team flirted with a top-four seed in the East before losing 10 of its last 15 games and falling into the play-in round. The moves came about 12 hours after the Celtics lost to the Brooklyn Nets in Game 5 of their first-round playoff series.

"One person's leaving, and we have one job opening. It's a very important job opening — head coach of the Boston Celtics," owner Wyc Grousbeck said. "It's following Bill Russell, K.C. Jones, Tommy Heinsohn, Brad Stevens, Doc Rivers. It's following an illustrious group. And we're getting started today."

Ainge, 62, won championships with the Celtics as a player in 1984

and '86 and took over as the president of basketball operations in 2003. He was voted the league's top executive in 2008, when Boston won its 17th championship — an NBA record that has since been matched by the Los Angeles Lakers.

"Danny has meant so much to Celtics pride, the reinvigoration of the franchise," team owner Steve Pagliuca said. "The great news is we have continuity, with Brad, who has been side-by-side (with him) the last eight years."

Ainge said that after having a heart attack two years ago, "I started thinking about what I was doing with my life."

"You're surrounded by your six children in the hospital and they say, 'Hey, you need to stop doing this,'" he said. "I don't know what my future holds. I don't have any plans. Right now my goal is to get Brad up to speed on the draft ... put the

Celtics in the best place they can be. I'll make the decision on the future somewhere in the future."

Celtics staff were informed Wednesday morning of the moves, which were first reported by ESPN and The Athletic.

Stevens' 354 wins trails only Red Auerbach, Heinsohn and Rivers on the team's all-time list. He said the search for his replacement will be "wide-ranging and comprehensive."

"I'm excited for Brad. I feel like he was born for this: Indiana kid, basketball junkie, smart, lives the game, has many resources and has a great staff," Ainge said. "This is a great day for the Celtics. I think actually this is a big step forward."

After reaching the conference finals last year, losing to Miami in the NBA bubble, the Celtics struggled with injuries and COVID-19 this season to fall to seventh in the East. They beat Washington in the play-in game but could only manage one win against the Nets and former Celtic Kyrie Irving.

Although he made one All-Star team and was the starting guard on two Celtics champions, Ainge's greatest accomplishment in Boston was constructing a new Big Three of Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen that won it all in 2008 and ended the longest title drought in franchise history.

Since then, he has had success in the draft, especially with emerging stars Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown. But even with the addition of established stars like Al Horford, Gordon Hayward, Irving and Kemba Walker, Ainge has not been able to build another championship team.

And for what had long been the NBA's most-decorated franchise, that's the only standard that matters.

"We are going to win banner 18 or die trying," Grousbeck said. "That's the way Brad feels about it. That's the way I feel about it, and all of us ... believe Brad is the person to lead us on the basketball side as we go after that lofty goal."

Duke's Krzyzewski to coach 1 final year, hand off to Scheyer

Mike Krzyzewski will make a final run at a national championship with Duke.

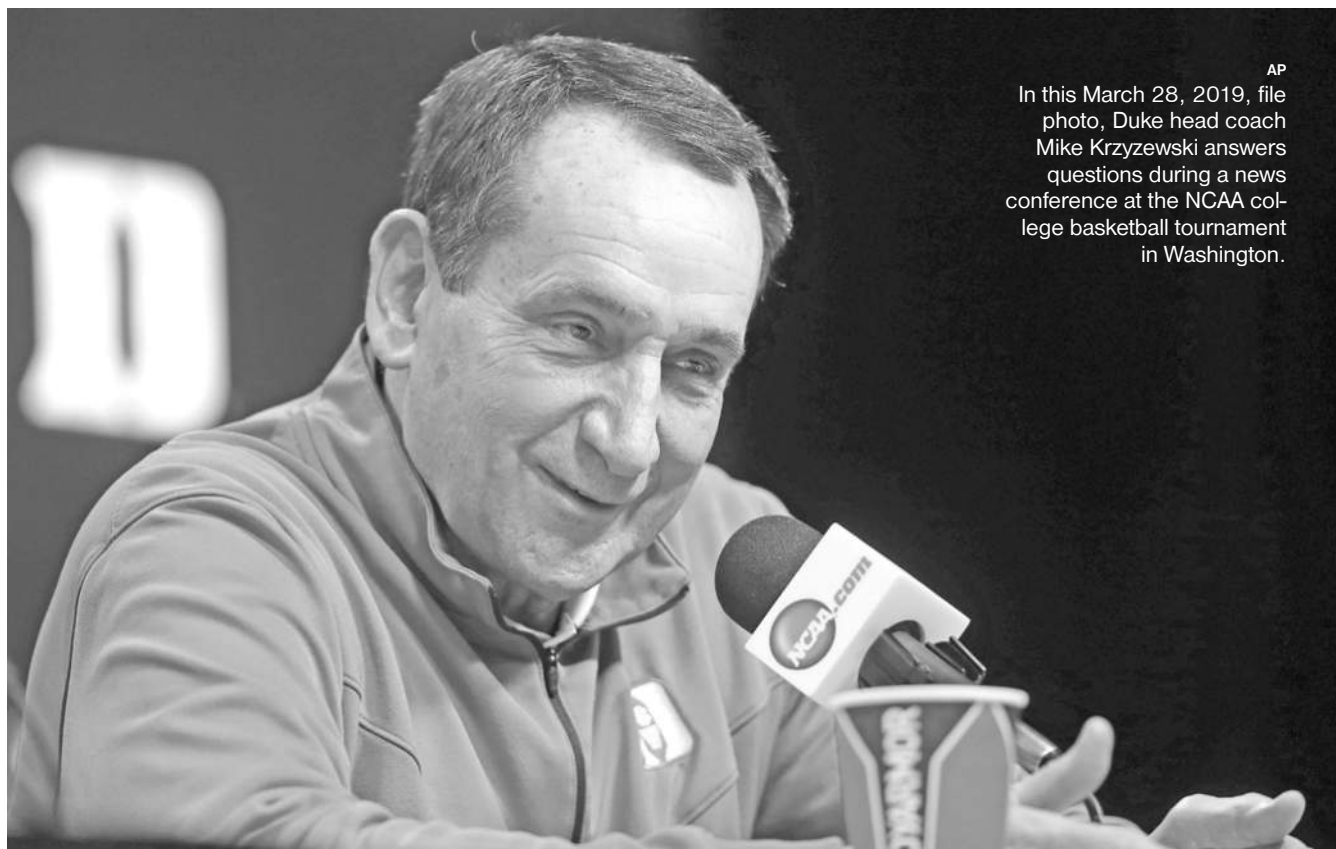
The Hall of Famer and winningest coach in the history of Division I men's basketball announced Wednesday that next season will be his last with the Blue Devils program he has built into one of college basketball's bluebloods. The school also named former Duke player and associate head coach Jon Scheyer as Krzyzewski's successor for the 2022-23 season.

"My family and I view today as a celebration," Krzyzewski said in a statement released Wednesday evening.

Stadium first reported news of the 74-year-old Krzyzewski's final season with Duke, which he has led to five national championships, most recently in 2015. He has 1,170 career wins going back to his time at Army, with 1,097 wins coming during 41 years with the Blue Devils and their frantic fans who have made playing at famously hostile Cameron Indoor Stadium so difficult.

Now Krzyzewski will have make a final lap — "The Last Ride," as the program billed it in a social-media post — around the Atlantic Coast Conference and the sport where he has piled up an incredible run of success before handing off to Scheyer, currently 33.

"He is clearly ready for this



AP
In this March 28, 2019, file photo, Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski answers questions during a news conference at the NCAA college basketball tournament in Washington.

opportunity and has shown it repeatedly throughout his playing career and as a coach on our staff the past eight seasons," Krzyzewski said. "Jon is a rising star in our profession and Duke basketball could not be in better hands in the future."

The school has scheduled a news conference for Krzyzewski on Thursday at Cameron, followed by one Friday for Scheyer.

Krzyzewski has led the

Blue Devils to 12 Final Four appearances and a record 15 ACC Tournament championships, while his teams have spent a record 126 weeks ranked at No. 1 in the men's college basketball poll.

Hired at Duke in March 1980, "Coach K" won national championships in 1991, 1992, 2001, 2010 and 2015. He broke Army mentor Bob Knight's career victory record in November 2011.

Krzyzewski has tailored his approach to adapt with the times and his personnel. He won that 2010 title with a senior-laden roster, then claimed 15 one after pivoting re "one-and-done" talent that headed to the NBA after a lone college season.

His image became synonymous both with the elite private university in Durham, North Carolina, and the sport as a whole. And along the way,

he took over the U.S. men's national team—with NBA All-Star rosters featuring names such as the late Kobe Bryant and LeBron James—and led it to Olympic gold in Beijing in 2008, London in 2012 and Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

"What he means to the countless players he has coached, both collegiately and professionally, is simply immeasurable," ACC commissioner Jim Phillips said in a statement.

Duke missed the NCAA Tournament this past season for the first time since 1995, but the Blue Devils welcome one of the nation's top recruiting classes for the coming season.

Scheyer played for Krzyzewski from 2006-10, with his last season resulting in his mentor's fourth NCAA title. Scheyer joined the Duke staff for the 2013-14 season and rose to his current role following the 2017-18 season.

Scheyer served as interim coach last year for Duke when Krzyzewski was sidelined for a January win against Boston College due to COVID-19 protocols. Scheyer has never been a college head coach.

"Duke University has been a central part of my life for more than a decade, and I could not ask for a better place to continue my career," Scheyer said in a statement. "This is absolutely humbling. ... (Krzyzewski) has set a standard that every coach at every level should strive to achieve."

The news comes almost two months to the day that another Hall of Famer in the state—North Carolina's Roy Williams—announced his retirement after 33 seasons as a head coach with Kansas and the rival Tar Heels. UNC also turned to a former player on the bench, elevating Hubert Davis to take over in his first time as a major college head coach. (AP)



LOS ANGELES (AP)—

Cody Bellinger had a grand slam and six RBIs as the Dodgers scored 11 times in the bottom of the first — their most runs in one inning of a regular-season game since moving to Los Angeles — during a 14-3 blowout over the St. Louis Cardinals on Wednesday night.

Bellinger led the onslaught with a franchise-record six RBIs in the inning. After Paul Goldschmidt homered to put St. Louis ahead 1-0, Bellinger's two-run single gave Los Angeles a 3-1 lead. Later in the inning, he hit his sixth career slam.

The 11-run inning surpassed the previous mark of 10, which had been done at least four times, most recently in the first inning on April 25, 2008, at Colorado. It was the second time in less than a year the Dodgers had an 11-run first. They put up the same number in Game 3 of last year's NL Championship Series against Atlanta.

Mookie Betts also had two hits as the Dodgers sent 14 batters to the plate in the first.

Zach McKinstry, who had a two-run single, Justin Turner and Betts also had RBIs in the inning. The Dodgers had seven of their 10 hits in the

Dodgers erupt for 11 runs in 1st inning, beat Cardinals, 14-3

first and led 11-1 at the end of the inning.

St. Louis starter Carlos Martínez (3-5) went two-thirds of an inning. The right-hander allowed 10 runs on six hits with four walks and a strikeout in the second-shortest start of his career.

Cubs 6, Padres 1

In Chicago, Javier Báez lined a two-run homer, Anthony Rizzo had two doubles among three hits and surging Chicago beat San Diego for its third straight win and ninth in 10 games.

Báez's shot to the left-field bleachers was his 14th homer and third in three games, and it capped a three-run seventh that allowed Chicago to put it away. Rizzo drove in two runs in the fifth with his first double to snap 1-1 tie.

The Cubs homered eight times as they swept the Padres in a three-game set at Wrigley Field for the first time since May 2012. San Diego lost its fourth straight, its longest skid since last August.

Orioles 6, Twins 3

In Baltimore, DJ Stewart and Ryan Mountcastle homered as Baltimore beat Minnesota for its second straight win following a 14-game skid.

Mountcastle broke open the game with a three-run shot in the seventh off Alex Colomé that boosted the lead to 6-1.

Reliever Tyler Wells (1-0) held the Twins scoreless with one hit and two strikeouts over three innings.

Baltimore DH Trey Mancini walked and singled, reaching base in 18 consecutive games.

Mets 7, Diamondbacks 6

In Phoenix, Pete Alonso scored Francisco Lindor with a go-ahead single in the ninth inning, James McCann homered and drove in four, and New York beat Arizona.

Miguel Castro (2-1) got the win with two scoreless innings, and Edwin Díaz recorded his 10th save. Joakim Soria (0-1) took the loss.

The Mets had 16 hits and the second through fifth hitters — Lindor, McCann, Alonso, Kevin Pillar and Dominic Smith — were a combined 13 of 24 with six RBIs.

Nationals 5, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Yan Gomes hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning, Jon Lester gave Washington's thin rotation a boost and the Nationals beat Atlanta.

Gomes' drive to left-center off

A.J. Minter (1-2) with two outs broke a 3-all tie and helped the Nationals earn their second consecutive win over the Braves.

Juan Soto hit a two-run homer in the fifth, and Ozzie Albies had a two-run double in the seventh.

Yankees 4, Rays 3

In New York, Gio Urshela homered early, Clint Frazier drove in two a night after his walk-off homer and New York overcame several sloppy moments to beat Tampa Bay.

New York had lost six of seven before winning its past two games against the AL East-leading Rays. Tampa Bay dropped two in a row for the first time since May 11-12, also against the Yankees.

Jordan Montgomery (3-1) pitched 6 1/3 innings for New York, and only one of the three runs he allowed was earned. Aroldis Chapman worked out of the jam in the ninth for his 12th save.

Astros 2, Red Sox 1

In Houston, Framber Valdez pitched seven strong innings and Kyle Tucker had two hits as Houston handed Nick Pivetta his first loss of the season in a win over Boston.

Valdez (1-0) yielded five

hits and one run while striking out 10. He walked two in his second start of the season after missing the first two months after breaking his left index finger in spring training. Ryan Pressly picked up his eighth save.

Pivetta (6-1) allowed three hits and two runs in six innings. He struck out a season-high nine for the second straight game.

Blue Jays 6, Marlins 5

In Buffalo, N.Y., Vladimir Guerrero Jr. scored the winning run on Joe Panik's sacrifice fly, capping a three-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning that gave Toronto a victory over struggling Miami.

Bo Bichette tied it with a two-run triple in the ninth, and Randal Grichuk hit two solo homers to help Toronto improve to 2-0 this season in its temporary Buffalo home.

Anthony Castro (1-1) pitched a hitless ninth for the win. Reliever Yimi García (3-4) took the loss.

Rockies 6, Rangers 3

In Denver, Joshua Fuentes homered to back a strong outing from Antonio Senzatela as Colorado dealt Texas its 14th straight road loss.

Fuentes also doubled, sin-

gled and scored three runs to rally the Rockies to their third consecutive win. Raimel Tapia had two doubles and an RBI single.

Texas has lost eight in a row overall, all on its current road trip that ends Thursday at Coors Field.

Senzatela (2-5) allowed three runs—one earned—in 7 2/3 innings.

Reliever Demarcus Evans (0-1) took the loss.

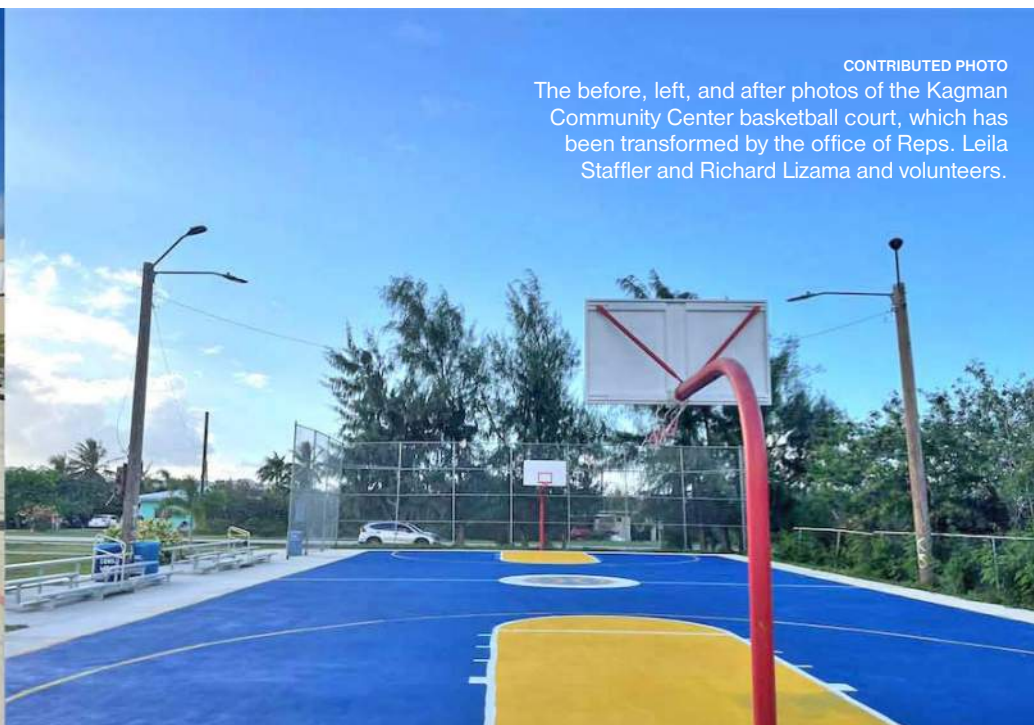
Athletics 6, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Sean Manaea pitched a four-hitter with eight strikeouts for his second shutout this season, and Oakland defeated Seattle.

Mitch Moreland's two-run homer capped a five-run third inning, giving the A's their third straight win and manager Bob Melvin his 800th with Oakland.

Mark Canha opened the scoring with a two-run double off starter Chris Flexen (5-3), then scored on Matt Olson's RBI single. Moreland followed with his fifth home run of the season.

Manaea (4-2) faced the minimum through the fourth inning with the help of a double play, one of three he got in the game. The left-hander walked two in his third career complete game—all shutouts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The before, left, and after photos of the Kagman Community Center basketball court, which has been transformed by the office of Reps. Leila Staffler and Richard Lizama and volunteers.

Another basketball court in Kagman underwent transformation, providing village residents with a safer and more accessible facility.

The Kagman Community Center basketball court and its other features were painted and improved through the combined efforts of the office of Rep. Leila Staffler and Rep. Richard Lizama, the Lady Rollers, Rollers Basketball Club, Rotary Club, and other volunteers. The transformation was done last Saturday as part of the two lawmakers' support to the Public Private Partnership initiative of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. The Precinct 5 representatives also restored the Kagman II court in partnership with Socho Basketball Club, K-Rollers, and K2 Ballers players and coaches and the village's residents.

"Our partnership with the NMI Rollers organization, which includes the Lady Rollers, started from the outreach job done by head coach Joe Diaz. It is through his network of teams and players that we

Kagman Community Center basketball court transformed

have had the volunteer support for all the basketball court projects so far. We also did flyers to encourage any other interested community members who wanted to be a part of the projects," Staffler said.

For the KCC court, Staffler said the Lady Rollers wanted to get involved since they have been using the facility for their regular practices. Joanne Aquino of the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Rotary Club of Saipan also volunteered for the project.

"I love that volunteerism is a value that is cultivated by our sports teams. Having our young female players support this effort is an example of how community service allows people to connect to their community in a deep meaningful way which can be transformational. Now every time they drive by or play on the court, they can have pride knowing they were part of that project," Staffler said.

Lady Rollers coach and former NMI national team

member Marlene Lumabi said seeing the transformation in various basketball courts across all villages in The Marianas will definitely encourage more players, especially the youth to come out and play.

"It is an incredible moment for many basketball players. Growing up, I would play at public courts near my house. Though the court itself was not at its best shape, with net-less hoops, dimmed lights, faded paint, and rusty boards, it did not stop my friends and I from playing basketball. Now, it's great to witness the improvements being done. I feel grateful and excited because people who enjoy the sport can benefit from these improvements," said Lumabi.

The Lady Rollers coach, who also sits on the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation board as a director, added they helped out in the PPP project not just to have a better

facility to play, but also to instill values to their young players.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lady Rollers players and other volunteers paint the Kagman Community Center basketball court last Saturday.

facility to play, but also to instill values to their young players.

"It is more than just playing the sport, but coming together as a team to encour-

age others in our community to help improve the islands. I really encourage other clubs to get involved. By showing up and helping in these vari-

ous projects, we are setting the example for future athletes to promote a safer and accessible way of playing basketball," Lumabi said. (PR)

SIKKEL

From Page 24

After losing her match to Sikkell, Chung managed to conquer her final game of the tournament against Wang, 6-2, 7-5.

Completing the age group's Top 3 was Wang who finished the tournament with a win-loss record of 2-2.

Wang managed to prevail in the match against Anna Kwon, 6-2, 7-6 (6), and Anne Lee, 6-1, 6-0.

Meanwhile, in the girls U12 singles, Anne Lee prevailed with a win-loss record of 2-0. She bested Hannah Chae and moved on to beat Lina Tsukagoshi, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Tsukagoshi took second place in the category after outplaying Hannah Chae but no results were available.

Also winning a title last weekend for the boys U12 singles was Yutaka Kadokura

who beat Siwoo Lee.

The champ upset top seed Lee via a 6-2, 6-1 victory.

He made it to the finals after sweeping his matches against Ian Chae, 6-4, 6-3, and moved on to battle Henry Yeom in the semifinals where Kadokura took a 6-4, 6-1 victory.

Runner-up Lee gained the finals seat in the top half after besting Taher Shakir in the semifinals, 6-0, 6-2.

Completing the Top 3 was Ki Won Lee who vied for third place against Henry Yeom. Lee managed to take the title after a super-tiebreaker third set where he got away with a 10-6 victory.

A third set was needed after Lee lost the second set, 4-6 but in the previous set, he managed to take a 6-4 victory over Yeom.

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association helped coordinate the 2021 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic.

Editor's Note: The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support from the community. Various activities have been conducted and projects have been launched to rally behind the destination transformation campaign. This section will provide insights on how PPP supporters are committed to the program.

NMI

From Page 24

1-point advantage, 2-1.

Jershwin Angeles of TanHoldings brought the game to a tie again in the 62nd minute, but Goto took back the lead for NMI U18 A after firing his second goal in the

70th minute.

Akira Kadokura delivered the final blow and secured the win for NMI U18 with a goal in the 74th minute.

The previous weekend, MP United denied TanHoldings' bid for an undefeated season after taking a 2-0 victory in their Division A game.

Meanwhile, sister team NMI U18 B crushed Old B Bank last Friday after taking a 3-0 victory over the latter.

Aloy Angeles led the way with a goal in the 3rd minute, followed by another goal from Ruben Guerrero in the 12th minute. Garrett Weaver landed the team's final goal in the

39th minute.

Also prevailing last weekend was MP United who outshined The One, 2-0.

Sunjoon Tenorio showed the way for MP United with a goal in the 21st minute and an own goal in the 66th minute gave MP United a 2-point advantage by the end of the match.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 24

into the game, Castillo landed a goal in the 33rd minute kick-starting Shirley's comeback.

Costales followed up shortly after with back-to-back goals in the 37th and 40th minute to close in on Southern United brining the score up 3-3.

Southern United, feeling the pressure, fought to gain

the lead back in the final few minutes of the match with Wally nearly landing a few goals, but Mae Ito seemed to anticipate every shot, but to no avail.

Meanwhile, in Division B, Southern United took home the title from under Shirley's by a 3-2 (PK) victory as Megan Elayda, Mariana Castro, and Rosie Sarulu landed their goals in the penalty shootout.

For Shirley's, only Marrielle Gariguez and Marilou Ariola landed their goals in the penalty shootout.

Southern United took the lead in the 16th minute with a goal from Keisha Deleon Guerrero but 10 minutes later, Shirley's Jeraldine Castillo evened the playing field with a goal in the 26th.

Neither of the teams managed to break the tie before the

end of the game resulting in the penalty shootout.

Also winning their matches were Kanoa and TanHoldings to land third place for Division A and B, respectively.

A goal from Khristelle Itaas gained the title for Kanoa in the 26th minute.

Later in Division B, a goal from TanHoldings' Neriah Nicole Lumbad in the 31st minute secured the win for her team.



Together, We Can
Public Private Partnership



Doncic scores 42
and leads Mavs over
Clippers, 105-100

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Kagman Community
Center basketball
court transformed

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Shirley's, Southern United split titles

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The title matches in both Divisions A and B of the 2021 Dove Spring season went down to-the-wire with champions decided by penalty shootouts last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In Division A, four Shirley's FC players hit their target during the penalty shootout to clinch the title. In Division B, three players from Southern United landed goals during the penalty shootout to be named champions. Last Sunday, Shirley's came out on top with a 4-3 (PK) victory over Southern United behind Katrina Costales, Jullianne Hall, Jeralyn Castillo, and Francesca Bucalig all landing



Sikkel sweeps Bridge Capital tennis tourney

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Savita Sikkell excelled in the girls U14 singles category of the 2021 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic tournament after sweeping all her matches in the round-robin tournament last weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Sikkell completed the three-day tourney with a win-loss record of 4-0 to put her in first place, crushing all the competitors she was pitted against.

In her first match of the tournament, she took a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Anna Kwon and moved on to face Hoo Wang. During the match, Sikkell struggled a little in the first



set but managed to prevail with a 7-5 victory before ultimately overpowering Wang in the second set, 6-1.

Next, the champ faced Anne Lee and like those before her, Sikkell showed no mercy, taking a 6-0, 6-1 victory over her foe.

In her last match of the tournament, Sikkell outplayed eventual runner-up Irin Chung, taking a 6-3, 6-3, victory to secure her title.

Chung completed the tournament with a win-loss record of 3-1 with her only loss to Sikkell.

During her first match, she crushed Anne Lee, 6-1, 6-1, before moving on to beat Anna Kwon by a 6-4, 6-2 victory.

See SIKKEL on Page 23



Sikkell

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jerlyn Castillo lands a goal for Shirley's during the Division A finals match of the 2021 Dove Spring season that concluded back in Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



their shots during the penalty shootout.

Southern United fell short by just one goal, with three of its players—Britany Wally, Christina Atalig, and Summer Manahane—making their shots.

An intense finals game

transpired between the two teams leading to the eventual penalty shootout. Southern United held the lead in the first half of the match, but Shirley's came from behind in the second half, ending the match in a draw.

Pia Ngewakl took the lead

for Southern United just 13 minutes into the match, while Wally widened the gap with another goal in the 19th minute to give their team a two-goal advantage before the end of the first half. Later, just a minute into the second half of the game, a goal from Atalig

gave Southern the upper hand, now at a 3-0 advantage over its foe.

During the second half, Shirley's started to pick up the pace, playing more aggressive and more organized compared to the first half. Just 3 minutes

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 23

NMI U18 A hands TanHoldings another loss

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The NMI National Boys U18 A served TanHoldings its second loss of the season following their match of the M-League Spring 2021 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

TanHoldings, who went undefeated for most of the season, has lost their mojo, dropping two games in back-to-back weekends.

During their match last weekend, NMI U18 edged out TanHoldings, 4-2, to hand them their second loss of the season. TanHoldings, however, remains on top of the

standings with a win-loss record of 9-2 with one draw.

TanHoldings initially held the lead with Martin Jambor scoring the first goal in



the 19th minute.

However, NMI U18 A's Kohtarō Goto, who carried the team with his two goals, landed his first goal in the 25th minute to

bring the game to a draw. Kaden Church turned the tables in their favor after landing a goal in the 58th minute, giving his team a

See NMI on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The NMI Boys National Team U18 A's Akira Kadokura, left, catches up on defense against TanHoldings Football Club's Ronnel Ocanada during their first round game in Division A of the M-League Spring 2021 early this month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.